

Big churches lose members but new groups do well

By Robin Young

There are 480 pages of almost unalloyed good news about Britain today, published by the Central Office of Information to edify foreigners interested in our national health, wealth and way of life.

Britain 1990 is the Government's official handbook and the standard work of reference used by British information services overseas. Its main message is that government initiatives are successfully combating almost everything including Aids, drugs, smoking, food poisoning, alcoholism and animal diseases.

However, the attentive foreign reader may discern that almost a quarter of Britons are born illegitimate and that the population is increasingly pagan.

The book does not put it so bluntly. It sees "evidence of a growing number of stable non-married relationships in that two-thirds of births outside marriage (which now account for 23 per cent of live births in Britain compared with 6 per cent in 1961) are registered by both parents."

For religion, it states: "There is no precise information about the number of church adherents since no inquiries are normally made about religious beliefs in censuses."

There has been a decline in the recorded adult membership of the bigger Christian denominations. However, "this has been accompanied by a significant growth in a range of independent and Pentecostal churches and new religious movements" and "the ecumenical movement is well supported".

In 1987, it is estimated, 230,000 were baptized into the Church of England, including 187,000 aged less than one, or 29 per cent of live births.

Of all pregnancies, 40 per cent were conceived outside wedlock. Of those, more than a third were terminated by legal abortion. In England and Wales, more than half of legal abortions were performed in private hospitals and clinics while in Scotland 98 per cent were done by the National Health Service.

On employment, the good

use of two). There are 23.3 million licensed vehicles, with road traffic increasing by 5 per cent last year, giving Britain "one of the highest densities of road traffic in the world". Motorways and trunk routes account for 4 per cent of roads but carry more than a third of all traffic.

Last year, 5,050 people were killed, about 63,500 seriously injured and 253,800 slightly injured on the roads. The road safety record is "good" with "one of the lowest road accident death rates in the European Community".

The average age for marriage in England and Wales is 26 for men and 24 for women; the average age for divorce is 38 for men and 35 for women.

Last year, there were 394,000 marriages in Britain (of which 36 per cent were second attempts for one or both parties). There were 153,000 divorces in England and Wales. The divorce rate has increased more than six fold since 1961, but is said to be lower in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

There were 3.7 million notifiable criminal offences committed in 1988, of which only 35 per cent were solved. For serious offences, rates were better - over 90 per cent for murders and 75 per cent for violence against the person and sexual offences.

The nation's 57,065,000 men, women and children live in closer proximity than the European Community average (234 inhabitants a square kilometre compared with the average of 143), but find room to share their increasingly comfortable lives with 6.8 million dogs and about six million cats. About half of households have a pet.

It is estimated that a quarter of the population give up some of their "considerably more" free time to work for voluntary organizations, of which there are 250,000 in England and Wales.

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Anger at new year grey squirrel cull

By Ruth Gledhill

Marksmen shot 170 grey squirrels in the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew yesterday in an attempt to halt a growing number of rodent attacks on valuable trees and shrubs.

A dozen marksmen stalked and shot the squirrels from dawn to dusk while the gardens were closed to the public for the new year holiday. On January 1 last year they shot 100 of the animals.

Yesterday's shooting took place in the tree collection, one of the least frequently visited parts of the gardens. The shoot was condemned by the wild animal campaign organization Care For The Wild as "cruel and unnecessary".

Mr Bill Jordan, the organization's chairman and a former veterinary surgeon for the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, said that Kew should trap the squirrels or protect the trees instead.

"What concerns a lot of people is that during the rest of the year the public feed and make friends with the squirrels."

"The squirrels become tame and friendly, and then on January 1 there is a shoot-out."

Mr Tony Harman, managing director of the contractors, Boxhill and Headly Pest Control and Services, said that squirrels could kill trees and endanger human lives.

"In the 32 years that I have been in pest control I have seen three houses burnt down because squirrels gnawed through electric wiring."

"People do not realize that some animals spread disease and cause tremendous damage to crops and buildings."

"We don't want to wipe the squirrels out, just to keep the numbers down. They were all killed humanely."

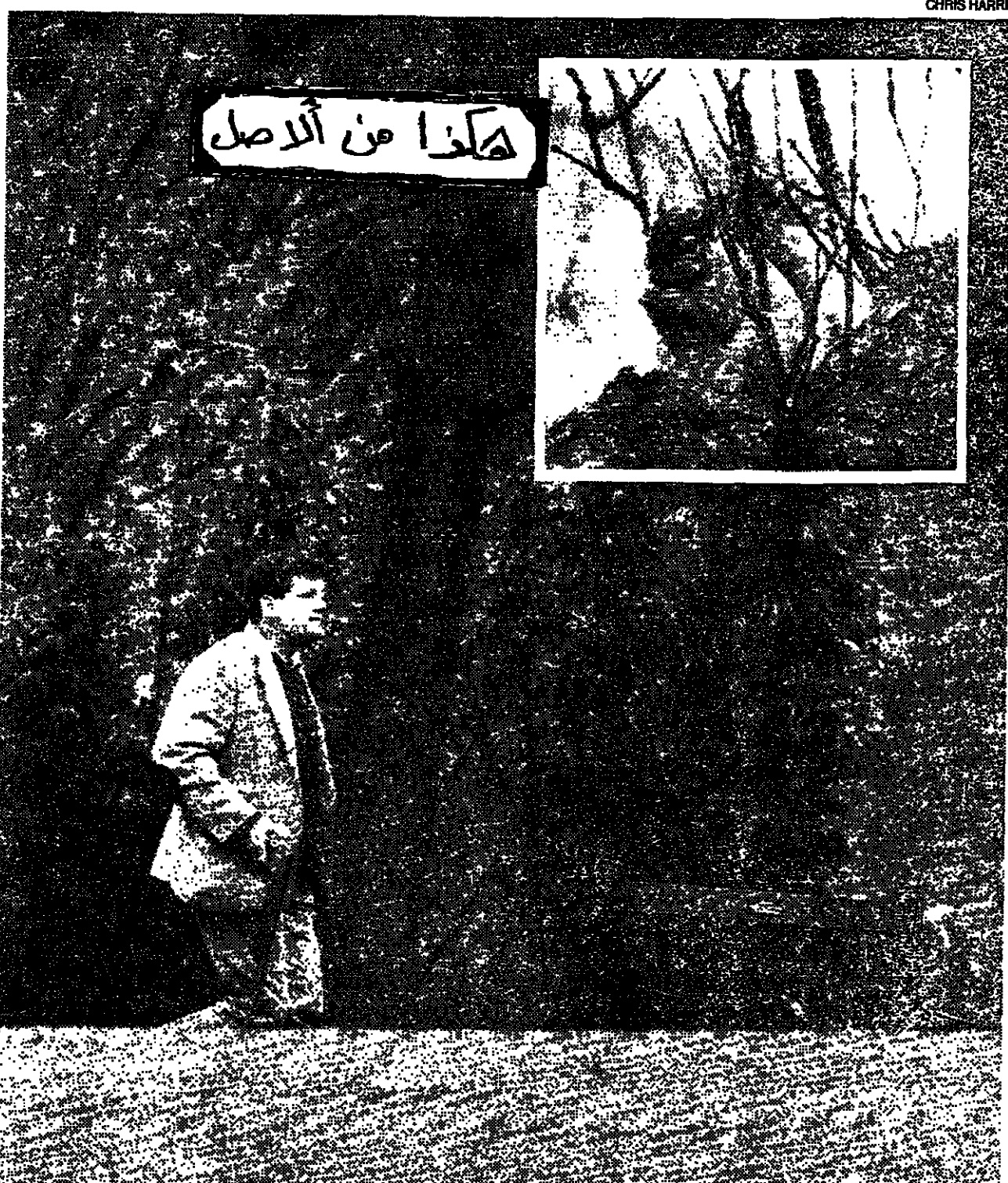
"These grey squirrels have killed off all our red squirrels, and they have devastated the song bird population because they love eating the birds' eggs."

"You can see the squirrels at Kew in the spring, tearing the nests down just to get at the eggs."

"They ring-bark trees and kill them because like all rodents, they have to gnaw. 'Nobody wants to be cruel to animals. This is not a fun day shoot'."

He will dispose of the bodies by burning or burying them. Police no longer pay a bounty for a squirrel's tail.

Mr Mike Mander, super-



A marksman scans the trees and a grey squirrel await its fate in the cull held at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew yesterday

visor of planning at Kew, said that more than 1,000 squirrels lived in the gardens, on the Thames in south west London.

"It is a necessary evil," he said. "To be honest, we would rather do without it."

"But when we have plants which have perhaps been collected in Chile or China, and we have invested a lot of money in bringing them here, it is heartbreaking to have them reduced to stumps by a squirrel."

"It was getting to the point

where we had to do something." He added: "It is not usually the tame squirrels that get shot. There will still be squirrels running up to visitors and scrambling sandwiches."

"Squirrels can cause very severe problems. We have probably the largest collection of bamboo in the country, we do not want new shoots to be nipped off by the squirrels."

He said the shoot was the second all-day pest control operation.

In previous years the con-

tractors have been called in the evenings on an ad hoc basis.

"Our policy is minimum control," he said.

The RSPCA said: "We accept that squirrel culling does have to happen sometimes." An alternative was trapping, which would require a licence under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act.

Mr Mander said trapping had been ruled out. "The animal is caged and distressed. There are not many

landowners who would thank us for releasing squirrels on their plots."

Members of the public who turned up at the gardens yesterday, unaware that they were closed, said they supported the cull.

Mrs Judith Miles, from Croydon, Surrey, said: "Squirrels have become a menace. We used to put food out for the birds in our garden. But we could never keep the squirrels away. Now we have abandoned feeding the birds."

Toddlers beliefs slow science learning

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

Britain's poor showing in science is due to the failure of schools to overcome naive misconceptions which children form about the natural world while toddlers, according to a new study.

The two-year study by researchers at Liverpool University and Kings College, London, found that five-year-old children refused to accept that plants could grow unaided by humans.

Their mistakes were compounded by formal teaching methods which appeared to contradict what the child thought it knew to be the case, leading to confusion and poor academic performance.

The report, to be presented to the annual conference of the Association for Science Education in Lancaster tomorrow, calls on primary schools to allow children to do more experiments to find out for themselves how things work.

Professor Paul Black, professor of science education at London University and co-author of the report, said: "Very young children find it very hard to believe that things grow. If a plant gets

bigger they think something must have happened while their back was turned or overnight. If some water in a puddle disappears they think someone has come along and mopped it up."

"When we asked them to draw a light and some shadows we got some very peculiar results because they did not see the connection between the light and the shadows."

"The idea that things are slowly and continually changing is one that they find very hard to accept. They have some basic naive misconceptions which they are reluctant to give up. If you start formally teaching them the right answers it appears to the children as a contradiction of what they think they know to be the case."

"When they are a bit older, they give the teacher what they want but still stick to their original ideas and that is

very bad for them." Professor Black said that the problem with shadows could be overcome by "giving children a torch and some cards to play with. That way they will find out for themselves how it works."

● A school timetable under which pupils spent more time receiving "guidance" from their teachers than they did studying English has been abandoned two years after winning national acclaim.

The timetable merged religious, personal and social education and scrapped traditional subjects in favour of "aesthetic" studies. It was devised by Newmarket Upper School, Suffolk, and won a schools curriculum award in 1987.

However, at the start of term tomorrow, the school will revert to traditional school assemblies in order to

comply with the Education Reform Act requirement for a daily act of "mainly Christian" worship. Formal lessons in English, art, music and drama will be reinstated and the amount of time devoted to English will be expanded to meet the demands of the National Curriculum.

The scheme involved all third year (13 to 14 year old) pupils at the school in three 50-minute sessions of "guidance" each week, during which individuals could discuss problems with teachers.

It was designed to improve the life skills of pupils. A further aim was to encourage a sense of citizenship in children. The number of formal English lessons was reduced to two a week as part of an "aesthetic core" which encouraged creativity in writing, painting, music and drama.

Elevation of English to one

of the three central subjects in the National Curriculum has forced the school to devote more time to it.

The Newmarket curriculum was hailed as a major advance by progressive educationalists. However, senior members of staff were accused of pioneering the project to further their own careers rather than to benefit the children. Teachers complained that they were being asked to act as counsellors without any formal training.

Dr Colin McCarthy, the deputy headmaster who oversaw the scheme's introduction, said: "We do not believe that the third-year curriculum was a failure. In a forward looking school, everything must be in a state of constant change."

Dr McCarthy said he had "mixed feelings" about the changes being made. However, he said: "We have had to become - how can I put it - more conventional."

Newmarket Upper School is a state comprehensive with 700 pupils aged between 13 and 18.

Airline chiefs split on Boeing rival to Airbus

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Airline representatives from around the world will meet later this month to discuss their differences over the design of a new Boeing jetliner which could revolutionize the shape of aircraft in the 1990s.

The new jet - to be called the Boeing 777 - will be bigger than all but the latest models of the 747 jumbo jet and able to carry up to 400 passengers, nine abreast, a maximum of 6,300 statute miles on two engines.

Some airlines, especially in the United States, regard the new jet as the key to solving the congestion crisis at airports around the world and want it to be able to use regional airports too small for the 747.

They are, therefore, pressing Boeing to build the jet with folding wings, similar to the system used to store fighters on aircraft carriers.

European airlines led by British Airways maintain that the folding wing - which cuts the 197ft wingspan by 30ft - would involve costly and heavy additional machinery being built into the wing which would not only reduce the amount of fuel the aircraft could carry but could prove potentially dangerous if it "folded" in flight.

European airlines will be arguing that the aircraft should be built with the latest technology developed by Airbus Industrie, the European plane-making consortium.

It has replaced the traditional control column with a side stick controller linked to a computer which automatically puts the aircraft into the best possible attitude for any manoeuvre and is capable of overriding a pilot who might accidentally stall the aircraft.

Much will depend on the outcome of the airlines' meeting, for Boeing is not prepared to go ahead with the development of the aircraft until both sides are satisfied with the design.

"We don't launch airplanes," Mr Dean Thornton, president of Boeing Commercial Airplanes, said. "Our customers do when they sign firm orders."

"The final configuration is far from fixed and we intend to hold very extensive discussions with potential customers to make sure that any airplane we launch clearly meets market demands."

"Our customers will tell us

what they want and we'll do our best to meet those requirements." The idea for the 777 came after the decision by Airbus Industrie to launch the A330 twin-engine jet which has proved a runaway success three years before it is due to make its first flight. So far, 240 Airbus A330s have been ordered.

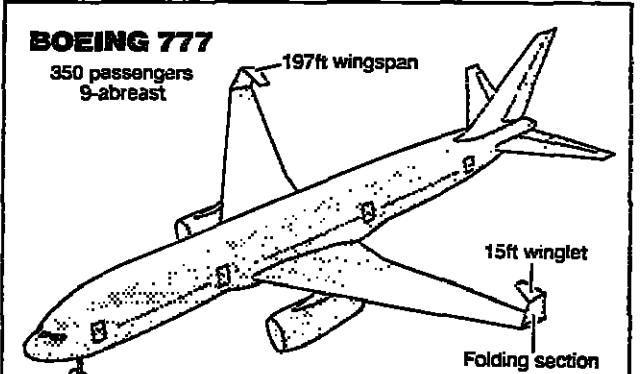
It seemed certain to capture the majority of orders for long-range, high-capacity airliners into the next century and was top of the list of potential replacements for British Airways' ageing fleet of Tri-stars.

Lord King, BA's chairman, told Boeing last year that unless it came up with a rival he would have little option but to buy from Airbus for the first

part of the next century it must incorporate the very latest technology, but that ideas for folding wings should be dropped.

The Americans, led by American Airlines, will argue that new technology and the increasing reliance on computers will only lead to potentially fatal complacency among pilots and that folding wings are the only way of ensuring that the aircraft can get into small regional airports where parking space is at a premium. At stake could be tens of billions of dollars worth of orders for the new jet.

British Airways alone is prepared to spend more than £2 billion on at least 20 aircraft to replace its existing Tri-stars and DC10s over the



time. As a result Boeing put forward its own ideas.

Potential customers in the United States were, however, anxious to achieve "commonality" between the new aircraft and the existing fleet of Boeing 767 and 757 jets so that pilots could switch aircraft easily without the long conversion courses normally needed.

Boeing has always rejected the idea of computers taking over from the pilot and planned to use only a limited amount of "fly-by-wire" technology which is now standard on new Airbus jets.

Rolls-Royce is offering an up-rated version of its Trent engine and Pratt and Whitney is planning to produce a new version of its new-technology PW 4000 engine.

Once a final design has been chosen, Boeing is certain to involve a number of international partners in building the 777.

Already talks have been held with a number of Japanese aviation companies which could take a stake of up to 20 per cent in the project.

Engine manufacturers are showing an intense interest in the battle as they stand to make enormous profits from the sale of the latest jet engines to power the new plane.

General Electric, for example, is offering the GE 90, a new turbo-fan engine which will provide a thrust of 80,000 lb from an engine with the same diameter as the fuselage of a 737.

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Arts Council saves experimental flagship from partial closure

Royal Court Theatre receives 17% fillip

By Simon Tail, Arts Correspondent

The Royal Court Theatre, Britain's flagship of experimental drama, is to be saved from partial closure this year by a 17 per cent grant increase, the Arts Council announces today.

Mr Max Stafford-Clark, the theatre's artistic director, has described the infusion of funds as "a lifeline". He said: "It really is like the Seventh Cavalry arriving."

"With only the 2 per cent we were supposed to expect under three-year funding, we would have had to consider a series of drastic options, which could have included partial closure, possible redundancies and a complete rethink of our operation."

"It seems ingratitude to say that it is not enough, but at least it is a recognition of the importance of the Royal Court at last, and a recognition of our particular problem with the local authority, Kensington and Chelsea, which continues to contribute to our children's programme but to none of our main work."

The Royal Court was scrutinized on behalf of the Arts Council early last year. The first recommendation was that it should be funded as a national company with the ability to run a full programme.

Last year the court's studio stage, the Theatre Upstairs, was closed for nine months, but the new grant - £672,500 for 1990-91 compared with £575,100 - should mean it will be able to operate all through this year.

The other theatre which had been facing a serious crisis had no extra funds been forthcoming was the Bristol Old Vic, which receives an 18 per cent

increase from £423,000 to £500,000.

Its grant had been cut two years ago in line with "challenge funding" for local authorities, but the increase for the next financial year reflects a rise in local council funding.

Apparently drastic reductions in funding for some theatres - the grants for Liverpool Playhouse and the Everyman Theatre in Liverpool go down by 7 and 9 per cent respectively - also reflect special arrangements made with local authorities in sharing responsibility for funding.

The Arts Council is able to be generous, thanks to the Arts Minister's increase in his allocation to the council, up from £155 million in 1989-90 to £175

million in 1990-91. It has chosen to reward innovation and experiment with largesse.

While most clients are to receive 7 or 8 per cent increases, as opposed to the 2 per cent they could hope for under the three-year funding arrangements, which had been ravaged by inflation, others are to receive a considerable fillip.

Dance in particular is a beneficiary, with the Afro-Caribbean Adzido Dance Company, based in the Midlands, having its grant almost doubled to £195,000, and the modern dance group KOSI (Kinetics of Social Harmony) getting £138,000, which represents a 119 per cent increase.

However, as they had been led to expect, the Northern Ballet Theatre, which was threatened with extinction last year by having its grant cut entirely, remains more or less on standstill with an increase on its £691,000 grant of only a single percentage point.

Experimental theatre companies such as the Natural Theatre Company (up 33 per cent), the Century Theatre Company (up 35 per cent) and the Galactic Smallholdings (up 31 per cent) are favoured drama innovators.

New music is well favoured, with the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival getting a 60 per cent increase from £25,000 to £40,000, and the Society for the Promotion of New Music getting a 28 per cent rise from this year's £15,600.

The British Music Information Centre gets a vital fillip with a 66 per cent increase to £37,500. The only company to be cut so far has already been announced - Kent Opera, which has gone into liquidation as a result.

Other touring opera companies have received increases of 8 to 10 per cent in their touring grants, which will be augmented for some of them by the extra box office receipts they may expect by taking over Kent Opera's performance commitments.

Opera North receives two sets of increases: 8 per cent on its company grant (£2.23 million to £2.4 million) and another 8 per cent on its touring grant (£475,000 to £513,000).

The Arts Council allocations are still not complete, however, with the grants to the regional arts associations, films, broadcasting and the London orchestras still to be announced.

6 The Arts Council has chosen to reward innovation and experiment with largesse

1990. LET'S MAKE A CLEAN START.

There is one environmental problem that we can all do something about.

It may pale in significance beside issues like the destruction of the rainforests and the effects of global warming.

But this is a problem that's right on our doorsteps.

It's dirty, unhealthy, unsightly and sometimes, downright dangerous. It's litter.

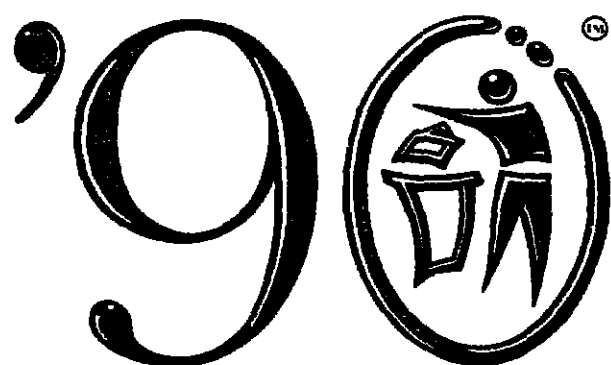
Our towns and cities are covered in it. Our streets and shopping centres are made ugly by it.

It mars our countryside, spoils our parks, pollutes our waterways and fouls our beaches.

Only people cause litter. And only people can put a stop to it.

1990 is Tidy Britain Year, and throughout the year, the Tidy Britain Group will be actively promoting the fact.

We'll be organising events, special Tidy Weeks, and assisting individuals and organisations to enlist in the fight against litter.



**TIDY BRITAIN
YEAR**

Let's do something!

What can you do, personally?

Well obviously, don't drop litter yourself, and try to encourage others not to.

But also, join the Tidy Britain Group, and find out from us, about all the other ways you can help.

Don't let the opportunity of Tidy Britain Year go to waste.

Let's give something back to our environment, by making sure we take litter away.

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| Please send me further information about Tidy Britain Year and membership details of the Tidy Britain Group. | |
| NAME | TT |
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| THE TIDY BRITAIN GROUP, THE PIER, WIGAN WN3 4EX | |

Minister's zest for university education suppressed

Macmillan halted pressure to raise school-leaving age

By David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent

The 1959 Cabinet resolved to play down a report urging that the school leaving age be raised from 15 to 16 in case it led to increased demand for university education.

The report, written by a committee chaired by Sir Geoffrey Crowther, a former editor of *The Economist*, embarrassed the Macmillan Government because of its potential impact on public expenditure.

The Home Affairs Committee of the Cabinet decided to tone down the statement welcoming the report prepared by Sir David Eccles, the Secretary of State for Education.

The Crowther report recommended that all teenagers should participate in some form of post-school education, requiring a huge expansion in the number of technical colleges and further education colleges.

However, the Home Affairs Committee, chaired by R A Butler, the Home Secretary — author of the famous 1944 Education Act — insisted that the announcement make reference to "the heavy and growing demands on national resources made by other social services", with education having to take its place in the queue.

Sir David's announcement has to say only that the

Government was studying the Crowther report "in the context of" demand for all the social services.

Some of Sir David's colleagues disputed his judgment that the Crowther report was a "great intellectual achievement".

According to the minutes, doubts were expressed whether its recommendations were compatible with existing government policies for improving the Youth Service and expanding secondary schools.

The deciding factor was the danger that accepting the Crowther report would "provoke speculation" about the need for expansion of the facilities for university education.

As events turned out, speculation was stirred. Later in his premiership, Mr Harold Macmillan commissioned a report on university education from Lord Robbins.

The Robbins report formed the basis for the great expansion in university student numbers in the 1960s.

The establishment of a fully-fledged ministry of science and technology embracing all civilian research work was considered by Mr Macmillan in 1959.

His prime ministerial papers show him asking Sir

Norman Brook, the Cabinet Secretary, to retrieve suggestions that a new ministry be created to take in all the Government's interests in science and technology, which were then scattered between several departments.

Sir Norman considered the options, including retaining the Ministry of Supply as the new science ministry by bringing civil research and development under its wing and transferring the National Research and Development Corporation — then heavily involved with the development of the Hovercraft — from the Board of Trade to the new ministry.

Mr Macmillan wanted an exciting proposal for science to be inserted into the Conservative Party's manifesto for the 1959 general election.

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord President of the Council, got wind of the Prime Minister's plans and, since he already had some responsibilities for science, insisted he be given a say.

In the event, the proposal for a full ministry of science was dropped.

Although, after the general election, Lord Hailsham took the title of Minister of Science, responsibility for science and technology remained divided between a number of Whitehall departments.

During discussions over the rundown in the Armed Forces, Mr Macmillan discovered how many personnel the Army devoted to its training programme, and he quickly let the Chancellor know.

War Office papers showed about 33,000 men *trainers* but only 25,000 were being trained. That seems, Mr Macmillan observed dryly, a better ratio between teachers and pupils than we get in the educational world.



Studying digestive system of rabbit in the 1950s: A report that all teenagers should have post-school training was thwarted.

Secret group studied the path world was to take in the 60s

By Our Public Administration Correspondent

A highly-confidential study group examining the likely development of the world during the 1960s was active during 1959, according to the Cabinet records.

The group, chaired by Sir Patrick Dean, a senior Foreign Office official, brought together senior officers from the Armed Services and home civil servants for what amounted to a continuous think-in on the future military and economic strength of Britain's friends and enemies.

Although its conclusions were not made available to the Cabinet until 1960, one of its articles of faith which emerges clearly from the 1959 archive — that of maintaining the value of sterling at the expense of the domestic economy — was to have fatal consequences for the Labour government which came to power in 1964.

Mr Harold Macmillan, a great reader of Jane Austen, the classical author, also evidently feared the effect on the British mind of cheap American fiction.

Freer trade with the Americans "might lead to serve competition from American paper-backed novels", the minutes record.

Mr Derrick Heathcoat-Amory, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, declared in a note to the Prime Minister that, with the growth of hire purchase arrangements, the Treasury had acquired a "most effective weapon" for rapidly influencing economic activity.

Mr Heathcoat-Amory went on to say that there appeared to be a deep-down desire in

the breast of every Englishman to own a motor car.

The Treasury proposed the introduction of a new £2 note but this was rejected by the Cabinet.

The new note might be unpopular, ministers said. Also, it "might appear to emphasize the fall in the value of money", they thought.

The Cabinet decided to end Royal Air Force escorts for air journeys across oceans by the Royal Family, which had served as a back-up search and rescue service.

There might be occasions when escorts were needed for the Queen or the heir to the throne, but in general the Duke of Edinburgh, Princess Margaret and the royal children could in future rely on the usual air-sea rescue services.

Private tunnel funding anticipated

The present government's policy of insisting on private finance for the Channel tunnel was anticipated by the latter by Macmillan's government in 1959 (Our Public Administration Correspondent writes).

The Cabinet at that time considered a memorandum from Harold Watkinson, Minister of Transport, which estimated the construction costs of a rail-only tunnel at £100 million.

His note said firmly that if the tunnel were a sound commercial proposition it would not be necessary for the Government to invest, whatever the French government might choose to do. Its profitability would depend on the volume of freight the railways carried.

It was envisaged that United States

investors would carry the principal burden. A note from the Chiefs of Staff was attached saying that they could not see any defence issues arising from the construction of the tunnel.

The Prime Minister concluded that with such progress on the tunnel, the Government would have to make its views public "by the end of the year".

● Traffic, especially in London, was a pressing concern to the 1959 Cabinet.

Immediately on his appointment as Minister of Transport after the general election, Ernest Marples urged his colleagues to "act quickly" to prevent the paralysis of the centre of the capital.

Lessons could be learned from the success of emergency schemes which had helped London to cope with extra cars

the previous Christmas, Marples said. He called for money to be spent on new off-street car parks in London, including a garage for 1,000 cars beneath Hyde Park.

Parking restrictions, however, tended to displace the parking problem.

R A Butler, the Home Secretary, told ministers that the Metropolitan Police Commissioner thought his men could usefully be reinforced in areas of serious traffic congestion by a new phenomenon: traffic wardens acting under the control of the police.

The wardens, the minutes note, could be expected to make a substantial contribution towards solving the increasing problem which resulted from the extension of the parking meter zones.



Mr Heath, who dismissed no-strike plan in 1959.

Wartime strike-ban extension rejected

Politicians' respect for the power of the trade union movement 30 years ago is illustrated by the summary dismissal by Mr Harold Macmillan and Mr Edward Heath, Minister of Labour, of a proposal to ban strikes and substitute them with compulsory arbitration.

Approached by the industrialist Sir John Laing with a plan to eliminate strikes by "dealing with" shop stewards, Mr Macmillan asked Mr Heath (who had been Conservative chief whip until the

1959 general election) to draft a reply.

Under wartime legislation, compulsory arbitration had been available to replace strike action, but Mr Heath could not envisage the system working in normal conditions.

On the basis of Mr Heath's draft, Mr Macmillan responded: "I doubt very much if the trade unions would accept a ban on strikes, at any rate in peacetime conditions, even though it might disembarass them of the incubus of unofficial strikes."

Market-force arguments are tested as road chaos grows

After years of government neglect and complacency, combined with a sudden boom in economic activity towards the end of the decade, Britain's ailing transport system finally reached breaking point.

Conversations about being caught in 15-mile traffic jams, standing throughout a long-distance train journey, getting crushed in overcrowded Underground trains, and languishing in the rain for hours waiting for a bus replaced the British pastime of talking about the weather.

During the eighties, the number of vehicles using the national road network increased from 18.6 million to 24 million. Passenger journeys on British Rail rose from 736 million to 763 million a year. Demand for London Underground

services increased 70 per cent. However, the Government faces increasing criticism over its alleged bias in favour of road-building and its refusal to draw up an integrated plan for all forms of transport.

Mr Parkinson points out that an additional £1.8 billion will be spent on transport over the next three years — including the highest level of investment in public transport for a generation — bringing total spending up to £14 billion.

Calls for an integrated transport policy are given equally short shrift. "I look across where the Iron Curtain used to be and see country after country getting away from integrated planning. It has been a disaster for them, and it would be a disaster for us," he says.

Yet the critics remain un-

As commuters return to work after the holiday

MICHAEL DYNES, Transport Correspondent, examines transport policy in the eighties...

convinced. Mr Jolyon Dromgoole, director at the Institution of Civil Engineers, says the legacy of the 1980s has been "an ineluctable increase in vehicle numbers" and the Government's "failure to acknowledge the long-term consequences" of such growth.

The 1980s have taught us that cars increase to fill the road space available. The day must dawn when we have no alternative but to control the car itself. It seems inevitable that some form of road pricing, in which motorists are charged for using congested roads,

Claims that the technology needed for road pricing is too expensive are specious. If we have the technology to have cellular car phone networks, we also have the technology for road pricing.

There needs also to be huge investment to extend the railways — much more than the present £3.7 billion investment programme paid for from passenger receipts.

Although British Rail's long-awaited plans to run "through services" to Scotland and the regions when the Channel tunnel opens in June 1993 are welcome, there is a real danger that the eight per cent return required by the Treasury for expenditure on new rail infrastructure could mean that much of it will not materialize. The benefits of the Channel tunnel, in

terms of opening up new markets, economic development, and relieving congestion on the roads by moving freight onto the rail system, must be available to everyone in both the north and south of Britain.

If BR's proposed through services prove not to be commercially viable, however, and the Government refuses to step in and shoulder the cost, the end result would be worsening congestion on the roads, and the surrender of prosperity to Britain's competitors.

Britain is already paying the price for neglecting investment in transport infrastructure in the 1970s and 1980s. Is it now facing the prospect of further chaos because of a refusal to invest in Channel tunnel rail services?

Whitehall Brief

Political riddle for the advisers

The annual trawl through the Cabinet papers made available by the Public Record Office each year throws up the great civil service conundrum.

It is this. If British civil servants are not "political", how do they perform when asked by ministers for what amounts to political advice? The answer from the archive is that they answer their ministers but it remains unclear from where they draw their political values and insights.

In the 1959 papers the question presents itself clearly in two places. One is the Minister's private office.

Today, Charles Powell, the official seconded from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to Number 10 has long outstayed his official tour of duty.

So too did Philip de Zulueta, Powell's 1959 predecessor, who was deemed to have become compromised by too long an association with an individual politician. Before that, Zulueta, and Harold Macmillan's other "intimate" officials, the senior private secretaries, Freddie Bishop and Tim Bligh among them, were constantly being asked for and proffering political advice.

Sir Frederick Bishop — as he now is — could successfully challenge anyone to call an expression of personal support for the Conservative Party from the official papers.

However, he would have to agree that doing his job in Macmillan's private office well meant expressing cogent views — as in a memorandum he wrote opposing the extension of government support for civil research and development.

The other place the question popped up was the Cabinet Office. It organized, with the Foreign Office and Services departments, a review called *The Study of Future Policy 1960-70* — a consideration not only of where Britain was likely to head but where it ought to head.

But can officials ever indicate what ought to be? Among the then junior high-flyers selected for the study group's secretariat was Richard Wilding. Last year, recently retired from the Office of Arts and Libraries, he produced a review of arts funding.

Was that review "political"? It contained the word "ought". It was therefore political, if by political is meant taking a view on the function and distribution of public expenditure.

So, both in the Cabinet Office and in Number 10 in 1959 (as naturally today) there were officials *doing* politics.

Conventional Whitehall wisdom says ministers decide on policy after officials present options. But the formula does not accommodate the cogent expression of civil service views in the archives.

In 1959 Sir Norman Brook, the Cabinet Secretary, had decided views about the white man's burden in Africa; but also about not merging the Ministry of Labour with the Ministry of Pensions.

These views are — without necessarily being partisan — political views. But the question then, as now, is whether the conventional civil service career enhances and deepens the attachment of civil servants to political viewpoints. Much has been made about training civil servants in management but little about training civil servants in politics.

The consensus is that Whitehall management could be improved. Could Whitehall policy — political — advice not also be made more professional?

David Walker

Garbo couturier's estate for auction

The estate of a designer who dressed some of the best known film and stage stars of the 1930s and 1940s is to be sold at Christie's East, New York on January 30.

Valentina Schlee, a Russian emigre who was a well-known figure in New York cafe society for 30 years and who died at the age of 90 in September, designed for Gloria Swanson, Paulette Goddard, Katherine Hepburn, Mary Martin and Norma Shearer. She also designed costumes for the comedy *The Philadelphia Story*.

Her best known client was Greta Garbo and she is credited with having created the Garbo look on screen, complete with trousers and tailored jackets.

When other women wore short skirts in the 1920s,

SALE ROOM

By John Shaw

Valentina fell to the ankles. A handsome woman, she wore clothing of her own design with such style and bravado that it made other women want to buy them, and the sale will include some of the dresses she made famous as well as her furniture, paintings and jewellery.

Valentina pioneered the idea of travelling light, and promoted the colours brown, black, white and beige. Valentina was said to be the first person to design clothes in which a woman could throw her arms round a man's neck without her dress riding up her back.

Rush to join London jobs exodus

By Paul Wilkinson

Early this spring, the first of 400 Barclays Bank staff will move into offices in a new business park on the rural fringes of Coventry.

They are evidence of the growing flight from London of companies tired of soaring office rents, difficult travel and acute staffing problems.

Already, 23 big companies in central London have said they will move this year, taking almost 9,000 jobs. According to a survey by Jones Lang Wootton, a London property firm, over 10,000 jobs will follow next year.

Not all of Barclays staff are moving. To leave the City would be an impossibility for one of the five clearing banks, but the logic of shifting as much as possible of its operation is inescapable.

Barclays said: "We're going for two reasons. The first is

that office rental in central London is about £70 a square foot, in Coventry, it is £15. The other is staff recruitment." It has had difficulty filling some posts in London.

"We chose Coventry because of its ideal communications. Coventry is on a motorway network and has good rail links. There is also an interna-

Destinations of companies which are to move from central London this year, according to the Jones Lang Wootton survey: Arco British (Guildford); Barclays Bank (Coventry); BP Exploration (Stockley Park); CEBG (Swindon); Chase Manhattan Bank (Bournemouth); Electronic Data Systems (Stockley Park); Esso UK (Leatherhead); Floor Daniels International (Camberley); ICL (Slough); JS Pathology (Camden); Lloyds Bank (Bristol); Logica (undecided); Millicom International (Darlington); Ministry of Defence (Swindon); Overseas Development Administration (Chatham); Post Marwick McLintock (Watford); Post Office Parcels (Milton Keynes); Readers Digest Association (Swindon); Reuters (Isle of Dogs, east London); Schell (Luton); The BIS Group (Wimbledon); Westminster City Council (undecided).

tional airport near by." In all, 1,000 London jobs will go. Four hundred staff have elected to move; another 400 will be recruited in the Midlands.

The survey by Jones Lang Wootton shows 20 firms relocated more than 100 jobs each outside central London last year. "The average size of move has increased significantly since the mid-1970s.

During 1989, an average of 359 jobs per move were relocated, a 41 per cent increase on the average of 254 during 1988.

"The average size of move for 1991 onwards of 708 jobs is significantly higher than previously recorded because it is almost entirely related to large decentralizations, some of over 1,000 jobs."

Some firms move only to Docklands, east London, but more than half leave the region altogether.

The Ministry of Defence, for example, is moving some staff to Tyneside. The Department of Social Security is moving 350 jobs to Belfast. BP Exploration moved 400 posts to Glasgow last year. The Pearl Group intends to transfer 1,600 to Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, next year.

Police car death

A police inquiry began yesterday after a man died in an accident involving a police patrol car minutes after the beginning of the new year.

Mr Chris Peace, aged 42, married with three children, was struck in Llanedeyrn Road, Cardiff, close to his home in Chapelwood where he was walking after seeing in the new year with friends. South Wales police said that the vehicle was responding to an emergency call and was not involved in a chase. It is not known if the police car siren was operating.

Man charged

Stephen Craven, aged 25, of Heaton, Tyne and Wear, was charged yesterday with the murder of Penny Laing, aged 19, of Annitsford, Tyne and Wear, who died after being punched at a nightclub on Christmas Eve. He was remanded in custody.

Paint store fire

Two warehouses were destroyed after a fire at the March Pine Paint Company's warehouse at Kirkby, Merseyside, which sent fireballs 100ft into the air and released toxic fumes. No one was injured.

Well prepared

St George's Scout Group, Cambridge, which bought its old scout hut site of a third of an acre for £3,000 in 1981, has sold it for £300,000.

Postal demand

British Rail has had to pay the Post Office £600,000 for failing to get mail trains to their destinations on time.

Palm beaches

Penwith Council, in Penzance, Cornwall, is considering planting 2,000 palm trees to replace those lost in icy winter three years ago.

THE CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

Moldavians cross Soviet border they want to see erased

From Anatol Lieven, Iasi, Soviet-Romanian border

For the first time, representatives of the nationalist movement in the Soviet republic of Moldavia are in Romania to seek support for their independence movement among people who used to be their compatriots.

Mr Vasile Nastase, a journalist, and Dr Anatol Selaru, a doctor, have been visiting Bucharest and Iasi, the capital of Romanian Moldavia, to "see the revolution of the Romanian people, from whom we have been separated for 50 years" and to talk to Romanians about the future. The organization they represent in the Soviet Union, the Popular Front of Moldavia, has as its aim the achievement of complete independence from the Soviet Union.

Mr Nastase and Dr Selaru, like many people of Moldavian origin, believe this would lead inevitably to the reunification of Soviet Moldavia — or Bessarabia as they call it — with Romania. The Bessarabians speak a dialect of Romanian, a Romance language distant from its Slavonic neighbours.

In the Middle Ages they formed part of Romanian principalities, and from 1918-1940 they were part of the modern kingdom of Romania.

In that year, Josef Stalin annexed them to the Soviet Union as part of his pact with Adolf Hitler, restoring to the Russian empire what had in the nineteenth century been one of its provinces. Romanian speakers now make up

about 64 per cent of the republic's population, most of the remainder being Ukrainians and Russians.

The two men claim that they are the first official representatives of the Popular Front to visit Romania. They crossed the frontier with a train-load of Soviet aid for Romania, and with passes from the republican government in Kishinev, to see how the aid is distributed.

They want to see the creation in Romania of an organization "to maintain cultural contact with all Romanians of the world, including those of Bessarabia". Their priority, they say, is to exchange information.

Mr Nastase said: "The Popular Front is fighting for the sovereignty of Moldavia." He and his companions reject any compromise on autonomy within the Soviet Union, however extensive. "The Soviet Government says that a sovereign state can be part of another state. From the point of view of international law, that is an absurdity," he said.

Mr Nastase believes the fall of Nicolae Ceausescu will have a great psychological effect in Soviet Moldavia: "Until now, the authorities always asked us whether we wanted to be under Ceausescu's tyranny."

The two men are confident their movement will find support in the new Romania. Dr Selaru said: "Until December 22, our political fight was supported by three million Romanians in Bessarabia. Now, it will be conducted in the open by 25 million Romanians."

Mr Nastase and he said that in the Romanian elections announced for April the Moldavian Popular Front would win support "by all normal democratic means".

They said that they would like to see independence for the republic within the frontiers of "historic Moldavia", which would include parts of the present Ukraine. They suggested that any dispute could be settled amicably through exchanges of territory with an independent Ukraine, and rejected suggestions that this could lead to another conflict like that over the Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Educated opinion in Iasi seems unsympathetic to the whole to the idea of a union between Soviet Moldavia and Romania, largely out of sympathy with President Gorbachev's difficulties.

On university lecturer said: "It would be crazy to start trying to change borders in Europe."

Romanian birth of hope



Mrs Mariana Atanase and her daughter Florina, among Romania's first new year babies.

Ceausescu links defended by church leader

From Roger Boyes, Bucharest

The robust, bearded Patriarch Teoctist of the Romanian Orthodox Church moved comfortably yesterday in his silken, gem-studded robe, offering a manicured hand to the cheering, wrinkled women outside the Bucharest Basilica.

But he is less at ease with the new Romania for, like other churches, his made a dangerous compact with the regime of Nicolae Ceausescu.

After new year Mass, I spoke to him at his frescoed palace. "I want to thank you, in fact all journalists, who have acted as messengers of truth and have helped Romania to freedom and human dignity," he said, ready for the first time to talk to the Western press.

Could the church not have done a little more to resist the Ceausescu regime? I wanted to know — it is after all difficult to forget the effusive telegram of support for Ceausescu published only two days after the massacre at Timisoara.

"Yes, we could have done," the Patriarch starts to say. Then, after a pause: "Or rather no, we couldn't — the repression was too great."

He never met Ceausescu, but the late leader kept him under constant pressure to shift the holy relics of St Demetrius from the Basilica because he hated the swarms of pilgrims who came to kiss the silver casket.

"We lived in constant fear," he said. "We were afraid that even this cathedral would be demolished. When I was told of the plans to rip up our Basilica, I kept silent, but at the same time, consolidated and rebuilt everything. That was how we faced the tyranny over the years."

He argued that the church, like every institution under an authoritarian dictator, was virtually powerless. "They decided to destroy the churches without telling anybody. Very often courageous priests tried to protect their churches and took great risks to save precious relics."

The church now gives its full backing to the revolutionary leadership, but this means no more than that, as one Western diplomat expressed it yesterday, "the Orthodox Church is happy to support the new regime, just as it supported the old one."

The difference of course is that the new Government is not bulldozing churches or "systematizing" villages. Certainly Ceausescu's secret plan to knock down the Basilica

was thwarted, but that appears to have been the only victory for the Orthodox Church's policy of quiet compromise.

The problems began under Ceausescu's predecessor, Gheorghe-Dej. In 1958 he arrested more than 600 priests, and established many of the anti-church rules that were in force during the Ceausescu era. The church resisted as best it could during Gheorghe-Dej's time but, under Ceausescu, the policy of atheism became more militant, the church's resistance was sapped, and the pressure on believers was huge.

One Patriarch, Justin Moisescu, was a Ceausescu favourite and was widely regarded as an agent of the Securitate. He pursued opposition-minded clerics and well over 4,000 monks and nuns were forced to give up their vocation. By comparison, the present Patriarch is something of a liberal, although he cannot escape the heavy taint of collaboration.

The other churches in Romania have also been torn between compromise and resistance. The Protestant Bishop, Laslo Papp, from Oradea — who ordered the removal of the Rev Laslo Tokas, the dissident priest, and thus provoked the Timisoara unrest — has fled the country. The Protestant Bishop of Cluj, Gyula Nagy — described by Mr Tokas as an "opportunist and a Securitate man" — has submitted his resignation, while Mr Tokas is now in the revolutionary leadership. He emphasizes, however, that this will be only briefly "to ensure that the Hungarian minority has a voice".

It is significant then, that the resistance against Ceausescu came mainly from clergymen outside the Orthodox ranks. The Roman Catholic and the banned Uniate Church have been enduring real hardships and, until the authorities declare an amnesty, many of Ceausescu's religious prisoners will stay behind bars.

But the persecution, both in the post-war years and the Ceausescu era is not confined to torture and imprisonment. Countless schools and seminaries have been closed; printing works and even the most basic religious services were banned.

The Orthodox Church hierarchy, by contrast, has already brought out a new newspaper, the *Chronicle of the Romanian Orthodox Patriarchy*.

Pilot tells of dictator's vain bid to fly to freedom

From Clyde Haberman, Bucharest

Nicolae Ceausescu's brief and vain attempt to escape capture was described by his helicopter pilot as a scrambled flight in which crew members were held at gunpoint and one of them sat in the late Romanian dictator's lap.

Lieutenant-Colonel Vasile Malutan, the pilot, said at one point he had told Ceausescu that their aircraft had been spotted by radar and would probably be shot down.

"That frightened him," he said. It led to an order to land immediately. Once on the ground, he said, the dictator, his wife, Elena, and two security guards stopped a passing car, ordered its four occupants to get out and then drove off.

Soon afterward, the Ceausescus were spotted in Tirgoviste, 45 miles

north-west of Bucharest, and according to some accounts were surrounded by peasants and soldiers. They were arrested, reportedly consigned to an armoured car and three days later, on December 25, executed by a firing squad.

Details of the attempted escape, the most complete so far, were included in an interview with the pilot published in *Romania Libera*, one of the newspapers that sprang up after Ceausescu's removal.

The pilot said he had been ordered to fly their helicopter from Bucharest airport and land it on the roof of the headquarters of the Communist Party's central committee.

He said they did not realize what was happening until they saw a crowd surging toward the roof.

At the same moment, the Ceausescus were being hustled —

almost carried, the pilot said — to the helicopter by their bodyguards. Accompanying them were two party loyalists who are now under arrest, identified as Mr Emil Bobu and Mr Manea Manescu. There was not

Delhi (Reuters) — The Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled spiritual leader and 1989 Nobel Peace Prize winner, urged China yesterday to follow the reformist example set by East Europe or risk another Romania in his Himalayan homeland. In a new year message, issued from exile in the Indian Himalayas, he said: "Not heeding the aspirations of the people will only lead to bloodshed and violence. Romania is a tragic example of a blind leadership which tried to resist change. The human yearning for freedom cannot be suppressed by brute military might."

room for them all, and as a result, the pilot said, his mechanic "had to be seated in the dictator's lap".

Their first destination was Snagov, a town 20 miles north of Bucharest where the Ceausescus had a summer retreat. Other helicopters were to meet them there. But

instead, Lieut-Col Malutan said, a superior told him over the radio that he was on his own.

He was then ordered to fly to a military airfield at Boteni, in the north-west and not far from

machine gun at the crew. But the pilot said he maintained radio contact anyway. A few minutes later, he told Ceausescu that the helicopter had been spotted and the Government had been overthrown.

Ceausescu, he said, replied: "No. Those are only horrible lies. Are you not serving the cause?"

But when he then told the deposed leader that they had been seen and were in danger of being blown up, Ceausescu became frightened and ordered that they land, which they did on a road near Boteni, he said.

As Ceausescu left the helicopter, the pilot said, he asked again, "Are you serving the cause?"

Lieut-Col Malutan said he replied, "Which cause should I serve?"

His last view of Ceausescu was of his hijacking a car and driving away.

New York Times

WORLD ROUNDUP

Israeli curfew on the Palestinians

Jerusalem (Reuters) — The Israeli Army forced nearly a million Palestinians to stay in their homes in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip yesterday in a bid to prevent demonstrations marking the 25th anniversary of Mr Yasser Arafat's Fatah Movement. The clandestine Palestinian leadership of the two-year-old revolt against Israeli rule in the occupied territories had called for big protests on the anniversary of the founding of the PLO's mainstream Fatah guerrilla group.

Police meanwhile said postal authorities had defused 10 letter bombs sent from Cyprus in the past few days and warned the public there could be more on the way. In December 1987, two Israelis were slightly wounded by booby-trapped Christmas cards sent from Turkey and Israeli officials blamed Fatah for the attack.

Mujahidin hangings

Peshawar (AFP) — Mr Ahmed Shah Massoud, an Afghan Mujahidin leader, had four members of a rival group tried under Islamic law and publicly hanged a week ago for their alleged involvement in the killing of 30 of his men last July. His brother, Ahmed Zia, said here yesterday. Mujahidin sources said the hangings, at Taloqan in northern Afghanistan, threatened to cause further tension between the Jamiat-i-Islami group, to which Mr Massoud belongs, and the fundamentalist Hezbi-i-Islami group of Mr Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

Aids victim expelled

Peking (AFP) — A US visitor has been expelled from China because he was found to have Aids, a Shanghai newspaper said. Health officials in Shanghai disinfected a hotel in the city after the man, said to be a homosexual and identified only as Mr J, left on Friday for the US via Hong Kong under the supervision of Chinese doctors, the *Liberation Daily* said in its Sunday edition.

● Sydney: A haemophilic teenager, who sued a hospital here claiming he had contracted Aids through a blood transfusion, has died before the case was settled.

UK satellite launch

Washington — A Titan 3 rocket carrying a British military satellite was launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, after nine postponements (Martin Fletcher writes). The 155 ft rocket was built by the Martin Marietta Corporation, one of three American companies striving to close the gap on the European Space Agency's Ariane rocket. It carried the 3,230 lb SkyNet 4A satellite — which the Ministry of Defence will use to communicate with its land, sea and air forces — and a Japanese communications satellite.

£8m Matisse theft

Nice (AFP) — A cat burglar stole eight works by Matisse worth 75 million francs (£8 million) from the family home on the Riviera, police said yesterday. They included the oil paintings "View over Collioure Port", "Woman in Brittany" and "Devilacque", two other oil paintings, a linoleum engraving and two pencil sketches. The painter's daughter-in-law, Maria Matisse, discovered the theft on Friday when she visited the flat in which Matisse lived until his death in 1954 which has been uncoccupied for many years.

Bush and Gorbachov exchange peace pledge

By Martin Fletcher in Washington and Philip Webster

President Bush and President Gorbachov, in an exchange of videotaped new year messages, pledged total commitment to the advance of freedom and democracy and to still closer superpower co-operation. Mrs Thatcher added her support in a BBC World Service message, praising Mr Gorbachov's role in the historic changes taking place in Eastern Europe.

Mr Gorbachov, in an apparent allusion to events in Eastern Europe and fears that Soviet tolerance might snap, said the world was "forging ahead in pursuit of happiness, freedom and democracy" and that it would be "naïve, preposterous and dangerous to try and stop that quest".

He also declared that 1990 could prove "a real watershed in arms control and arms reduction".

Mr Bush, perhaps mindful of Soviet domestic discontent with Mr Gorbachov, expressed his support for the "dynamic process of reform" in the Soviet Union.

He reiterated that the US sought "no advantage" from the upheavals in Eastern Europe. "We will work together to reduce barriers to trade, investment and the free movement of goods and ideas," he promised.

Mr Gorbachov proposed making the 1990s "a decade of greater closeness between the United States of America and the Soviet Union on the basis of universal human rights" and a balance of interests.

He appealed for all nations to rid the world of fears and mistrust, of excessive and unnecessary weapons, outdated political concepts and military doctrines, and "artificial barriers between peoples and countries".

Mr Gorbachov said the two countries could also do much to improve the moral and political climate of the world.

"The 1990s could become a decade of global and increasingly irreversible advance of freedom, democracy and equality," he said.

Mr Bush, calling Mr Gorbachov "a good partner in peace", appealed for redoubled efforts to forge "a new century of peace and freedom" after "nine decades of war, of strife, of suspicion".



Champagne celebration: Jubilant Poles pop corks to herald the new year on Castle Square after a year of radical changes.

achov "a good partner in peace", appealed for redoubled efforts to forge "a new century of peace and freedom" after "nine decades of war, of strife, of suspicion".

He said he believed lasting peace and prosperity came from a respect for human rights and the sharing of democratic values.

Alert to Soviet sensitivities, he said such values were "not exclusively American or Western. They are not the

Rome — The Pope called for peace in the world and for respect for the environment and made a particular appeal for the victims of kidnappings after celebrating the traditional New Year Mass in St Peter's yesterday.

possession of any people or any domain. They belong to all men and women, through all time and in all places. They are inalienable rights.

"As the world looks back to nine decades of war, of strife, of suspicion, let us also look forward — to a new century, and a new millennium, of peace, freedom and prosperity," he said.

Mrs Thatcher yesterday told the Soviet people that Mr Gorbachov's "courage and vi-

sion" had helped the aspirations of the people in those countries to become a reality.

She said the Christmas message was uniting the people of Europe as never before. "The world's statesmen are seeing one another more and working more closely together than ever before in our history. That is good news."

"President Gorbachov deserves special credit for the historic changes which have swept across Europe. He understands people's aspirations and had the courage and vision to take the difficult decisions which helped them to become reality."

Mrs Thatcher added: "We believe that the coming year will set your great country on the path to prosperity. Great changes don't come easily, but the goal is worth all the effort, for it is our children's future we are building now."

"We hope that you will all enjoy this Christmas season with its message of peace and goodwill which is uniting the people of Europe as never before. I send you a special message of friendship from the British people together with my own warm good wishes for a happy and rewarding new year."

Interviewed by *The New York Times*, Senator Nunn said that American forces in

Big US troop cuts in Europe urged

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

The United States should seek much deeper cuts in superpower troop strengths in Europe than those now being negotiated, an influential American senator said in an interview published yesterday.

The US should also tell its NATO allies that it would in future concentrate on providing air power at the expense of keeping numerous US troops stationed in Europe, said Mr Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Democrats' leading military expert on Capitol Hill.

The diminished military threat from the Warsaw Pact has provoked deep debate about proper levels of United States defence spending, and Senator Nunn is likely to play a pivotal role when Congress and the White House come to negotiate future Pentagon budgets.

Interviewed by *The New York Times*, Senator Nunn said that American forces in

Europe should be cut from their present level of 305,000 to between 200,000 and 250,000.

The superpowers are currently negotiating a mutual reduction to 275,000, as proposed by President Bush in May, but Senator Nunn said that that proposal had been "overrun by events" in Eastern Europe and needed to be revised.

Quite apart from the need to cut the US budget deficit, the 275,000 figure would "validate" a Soviet presence much greater than the East European nations in the Warsaw Pact now desired.

Senator Nunn said he believed the US should also reconsider its military role in Europe, "specializing" in air power and asking the NATO allies to shoulder more responsibility for ground defence.

Senator Nunn predicted annual budget cuts of between 2 and 5 per cent in real terms for

Promise of amnesty by Havel

Prague (Reuters) — President Havel of Czechoslovakia promised yesterday to lift the country from a mire of political hypocrisy and ensure it would never again be subservient to another power.

The President, in a New Year's Day address televised three days after he was sworn in, also said he would introduce "a relatively extensive amnesty", details of which were expected to be announced later.

President Havel spent years in jail for his civil rights activities, as did several other leading former dissidents now members of the Government that took office after the Communist Party lost its monopoly on power last month.

He called on the country to rediscover its self-confidence and help Europe restore the concept of morality in politics.

"The worst thing is that we live in a contaminated moral environment ... because we became used to saying something different from what we thought," the President declared.

"We became used to the totalitarian system and ... thus helped to perpetuate it."

President Havel said he hoped to renew diplomatic relations with the Vatican and with Israel before general elections planned for June, and also the hope that the Pope would visit Czechoslovakia before the poll.

"Our state should never again be an appendage or a poor relative of anyone else," he said, without referring directly to the Soviet Union.

"We are a small country, yet at one time we were the spiritual crossroads of Europe. Is there a reason we cannot become one once again?"

President Havel exclaimed "People, your Government has returned to you!", paraphrasing Tomas Masaryk, the first President of Czechoslovakia between the two world wars, who is seen as a symbol of the country's liberal heritage.

Vatican envoy sent to bring Noriega out

From James Bone
Panama City

The Vatican has sent a high-ranking envoy to Panama on a secret mission to negotiate the terms under which General Manuel Noriega would abandon his refuge in the Papal Nunciature.

Western diplomatic sources in the Panamanian capital said that the mission was an indication the Vatican had "probably" taken a decision about how the crisis should be resolved.

The envoy, described as a "very high-ranking official" in the Secretariat of State — the Vatican's foreign ministry — flew to Costa Rica and was due to fly on to Panama aboard a US military aircraft.

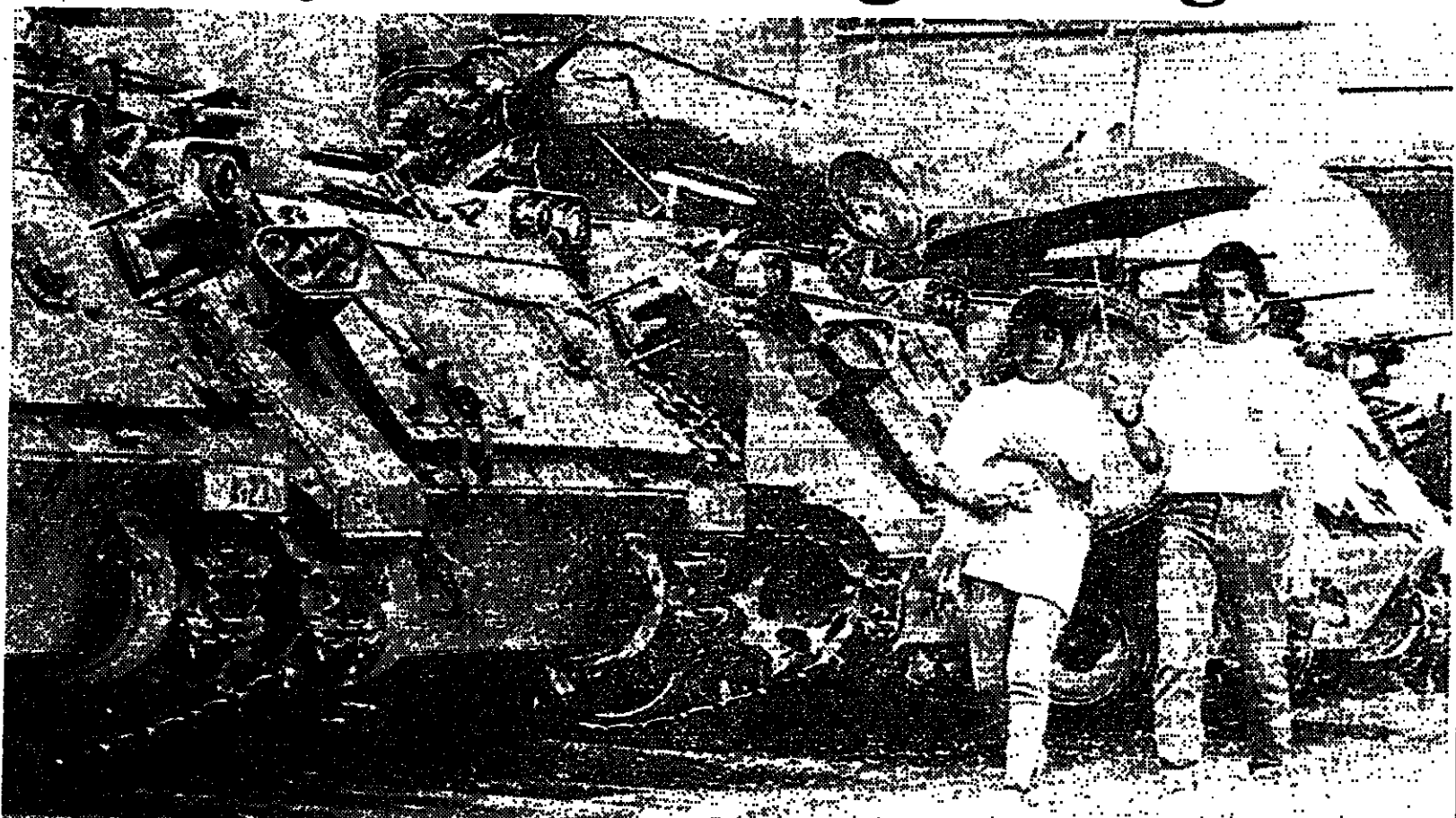
"He comes here to define the juridical conditions for the release," a well-informed Western diplomat said.

The diplomat predicted that the impasse would be resolved in "a matter of days".

Archbishop Marcos Gregorio McGrath, head of the Roman Catholic Church in Panama, sought to play down the mission, saying through an intermediary that the Vatican was simply "sending another secretary to help".

US forces provided transport for Monsignor José Sebastián Laboa, the Papal Nuncio, to enable him to return to the country on December 23, the day before General Noriega arrived at his embassy.

Archbishop McGrath reiterated late on New Year's eve



Security cover: While US tanks maintain a strategic guard in Panama City, Panamanians still look after themselves for protection against the elements. That church officials would not force General Noriega to leave the Papal Nunciature.

"They are not going to resort to hypnotism, nor are they going to bind him up hand and foot and carry him out of the gate," he said.

"Basically, it's going to

come about by his own decision," the Archbishop added. "He is going to have to weigh his choices and come up with what is the least disagreeable of the choices before him."

"And probably that will be for him the United States, because it offers him greater

guarantee of his personal security, non-capital punishment and a fair trial."

The prospect of General Noriega leaving the Vatican mission has split the new Panamanian Government.

President Endara has said that the country has no justice

system at the moment capable of trying the deposed leader.

But Señor Rogelio Cruz, the country's new Attorney General, has pledged to file murder charges against General Noriega today.

● ROME: A Vatican spokesman said yesterday it

was possible that a senior diplomat had been sent to Panama City to help in negotiations but said no announcement confirming the mission had been issued. The Vatican has refused any comment on negotiations. (Paul Bompard writes).

The President went on to say that Pyongyang was ready

Kim call for the Korean wall to be pulled down

Tokyo (AFP) — President Kim Il Sung of North Korea has called for the dismantling of a concrete wall in the demilitarized zone dividing the two Koreas, the official North Korean Central News Agency said yesterday.

The wall was a symbol of national division and of North-South confrontation, the agency quoted President Kim as saying in his new year address, delivered in the capital, Pyongyang.

Keeping the barrier, the like of which could not be found in any other country of the world, was "a disgrace to our nation", said the President, who has ruled North Korea for more than 40 years. He proposed a North-South summit, in which the leaders of political parties could also take part, to organize the dismantling of the wall and the relaxation of travel restrictions between the countries.

Now that both the United States and South Korean authorities had welcomed the opening of the barrier of division in another country, there was no reason why the concrete wall should not be destroyed, President Kim said in an apparent reference to the Berlin Wall.

The President went on to say that Pyongyang was ready

to remove barbed wire at any time north of the military demarcation line.

After removing the concrete wall, free travel must be allowed between North and South, he added.

The demilitarized zone was created in 1953 at the end of the Korean War. Millions of families were separated, with no postal links or exchange visits allowed.

● SEOUL: South Korea welcomed the call of President Kim, officials here said yesterday (AFP reports).

They added that Seoul was planning to make a formal proposal soon at the Panmunjom truce village for an agreement on free passage between South and North Korea. This will be modelled on the accord concluded between East and West Germany in 1972.

Officials at South Korea's national unification board have emphasized that exchange visits were the best way of eliminating mutual mistrust.

They said that under the draft proposal Koreans would be permitted to visit the other side for 60 days twice a year.

Officials in Seoul said Pyongyang had often proposed free travel, but never seriously tried to discuss the matter.

US invasion sets back drugs war

From Joseph Treaster, Bogotá

Despite some seemingly spectacular successes, the drugs war in South America is not going well.

Critics say the American invasion of Panama, justified in part as an anti-drugs initiative, has only fragmented the largely ineffective effort.

Despite the lack of sympathy for General Manuel Noriega of Panama, Latin America was clearly shaken by the latest case of US intervention in the region.

Peru dramatized that reaction by pulling out of an Andean summit meeting on drugs with President Bush, set for February. Because Peru grows 70 per cent of the coca plants processed into cocaine that is smuggled into the United States, this dashed

Bogotá (AFP) — The Colombian army has arrested three leading drug traffickers and found a secret tunnel on the estates of Gonzalo Rodríguez Gacha, a Medellín cartel chief killed by police two weeks ago, military sources said. The arrests were made near Honda, 125 miles north-west of Bogotá.

hopes for a cohesive regional plan.

Colombia and Bolivia, the other two main cocaine producers in South America still plan to meet President Bush, but without Peru's co-operation, narcotics experts say, the drugs war cannot succeed. The country would become a sanctuary for growers and drug traffickers.

"Trying to knock Panama off the cocaine-distribution map by deposing General Noriega, who has long been linked to the drugs traffic, was not a fair trade for the alienation of Peru, critics say."

Panama's importance in the drugs trade was waning, as tension between General Noriega and the United States grew, and drug traffickers and money-launderers left for more tranquil points in the

Caribbean, Mexico, Canada, Europe and Asia.

President Bush's campaign to stop cocaine at its source in the Andes, part of a broader drugs strategy, includes \$2 billion (\$1.2 billion) in economic aid to Peru, Bolivia and Colombia over four years, beginning this year, and training for the military and police in those countries to stop drugs traffickers.

But four months into the campaign, the picture is still bleak. Cocaine is flowing as freely as ever to the United States, where the appetite for crack, the by-product drug, remains ravenous, and it is becoming increasingly clear that for the Andes nations themselves, cutting cocaine production and exports is by no means the priority.

Colombia has embarked on a campaign to arrest its main traffickers and seize their assets, but for every trafficker who falls, another replaces him, overseeing the processing of the coca leaf at jungle laboratories and arranging for the shipment of cocaine to North America.

The coca plant continues to be cultivated in Peru and Bolivia, where poor farmers have discovered its value as a cash crop.

In an interview, Senator Joseph Biden, chairman of the judiciary committee, characterized the Administration's campaign as "little more than a paper initiative."

"The United States," he said, "must launch a genuine plan for the Andes, not just a laundry list of disjointed initiatives."

The Administration's response is that the problem of cocaine smuggling from Latin America has been building since the early 1970s, and that it will take time to solve.

Some US officials say they do not expect to see any measurable effect on the flow of cocaine until late 1990.

New York Times
Spectrum, page 9

Book opened on dictator's future

From James Bone, Panama City

There came an awful moment last Friday afternoon, just before the long holiday weekend, when it became clear, after telephone conversations between London, New York, Washington and somewhere in Nevada that it was impossible to have money wired into Panama because of the war-torn conditions.

With taxi drivers demanding \$10 (\$6) to \$15 for an hour's work, this left your correspondent, with less than \$100 after an overnight journey through half of Central America, with a cash problem.

In an effort to resolve this temporary liquidity crisis, and resorting to the foreign correspondent's traditional ingenuity, the writer decided to raise money by opening a book on when General Manuel Noriega would leave his refuge in the Vatican diplomatic mission.

Like on Friday, odds were posted on an announcement board in the lobby of the Holiday Inn, where scores of local journalists are staking out the Papal Nunciature waiting for the day when General Noriega walks out.

With the Vatican having

just called the Americans "an occupying force" and negotiations stalled, Saturday was listed at 12-1, Sunday at 10-1 and most of the week at around 4-1. The shortest odds, 3-2 on, were offered on the remainder of the year after February. Fools could bet at 100-1 that he would never get out, but they would have to wait a long time to collect.

Correspondents came running with all their supposedly hot tips to make a little money on the side. The Washington Post, for instance, bet heavily on General Noriega getting out last Saturday on the basis of information received from a "well-informed church source".

An ABC television man wanted \$100 on tomorrow, the first working day after the holiday, apparently on the basis of what Cuban sources had told the network's correspondent in Miami.

The odds on General Noriega leaving the Nunciature today fell drastically from 3-1 to 1-4 on after Panama's new Attorney General announced he was going to ask the Vatican to turn him over to face murder charges.

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Leaders who will shape the course of next decade

World events gained impetus in 1989. But who will shape the changes of the coming year? Times correspondents examine the prospects.

MIDDLE EAST

Richard Owen

Peace in the Middle East, beginning with direct Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, could begin in 1990. A five-point plan, put forward in the closing months of 1989 by Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, with backing from Egypt, builds on a plan by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, for elections in the occupied territories.

Mr Baker, however, will have to keep the initiative alive through "constructive ambiguity", ignoring the diametrically opposed starting points of the two sides. Israel wants limited Palestinian self-rule and no role for the Palestine Liberation Organization, while Palestinians want an independent state and PLO representation in talks.

The coming year will show whether Mr Baker can bridge this gap and prevent the PLO from breaking off the dialogue with the US, leaving Israel still entrenched in the West Bank and Gaza and facing permanent unrest. The peace process is likely to advance if the foreign ministers of Israel, Egypt and the US meet as planned in the early months of 1990.

The future of the Israeli Likud-Labour coalition formed a year ago hangs on the peace process. Mr Shamir's Likud Party is under strain because of possible Israeli concessions, while Labour supporters, who suspect Mr Shamir will sabotage the plan, want to bring down the coalition and make a deal with the religious



Facing up to change: From left, Israel's Mr Yitzhak Shamir, President Bush, Nicaragua's President Ortega, President Havel, President Gorbachev and Chancellor Kohl.

parties. Meanwhile, the Palestinian *intifada*, which led to the peace moves and has created a Palestinian identity, continues into its third year with a policy changing from mass confrontation into a more routine, if debilitating, series of running battles between Israeli troops and groups of Arabs.

Israel is also watching developments in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. The early months of the new year will show whether General Michel Aoun, the maverick Lebanese Christian military commander, can hold out against the new Government of Lebanon set up under the Taif agreement to try once more to give the battered Lebanese a balanced regime of Muslims and Christians.

Syria seems certain to be sucked further into the Lebanese quagmire at a time when its economy is shaky and President Assad is in uncertain health. A further decline in Soviet support for Damascus is expected next year.

In Jordan, the astute King Hussein, having risked democratic elections in 1989, will strive to control Muslim fundamentalism

and confound fears that his kingdom will disintegrate into chaos, destabilizing the region.

Colonel Gadhafi of Libya remains an unpredictable factor. Israel will keep a close eye on arms developments in Libya and Syria, and could even launch a pre-emptive strike against Iraqi nuclear installations.

The new East-West relationship, together with reduced American and Western support for Israel, because of its handling of the *intifada*, could alter the Middle East equation, making the issue more regional than global.

SOVIET UNION

Mary Dejevsky

The Soviet Union crosses into 1990 with its self-esteem lower than at any time in its existence.

Boasts of revolutionary soundness, historical necessity and outstanding economic progress have been replaced by unqualified criticism. Even the praise heaped on President Gorbachev abroad is rejected at home as no substitute

for domestic success. One good omen for 1990 is that introspection and self-doubt have made the Soviet Union easier for the rest of the world to live with. With Mr Gorbachev in the Kremlin there is no hint yet of the irrational aggression that can accompany declining power.

Mr Gorbachev seems secure. If he departs the political scene in 1990 it will probably be because he takes the now-fashionable East European path of resignation rather than because he is pushed.

The Soviet Union is now openly divided, not only by ethnic rivalries, which will be as insoluble in 1990 as they have been before, but politically and socially.

The people are frustrated by the failure of *perestroika* to improve their material lot. The leaders are preoccupied with the credibility problems of the Communist Party. They fear the outcome of local elections to be held between now and early March. Last spring, many urban populations rejected candidates who held any measure of power.

Having seen that candidates

could be rejected, voters may register their protest more decisively this time. The Communist Party Congress, the five-yearly assembly brought forward to next autumn, will have to decide what to do about the inevitable losses.

As overt Communist Party influence declines, it is being augmented (if not replaced) by the power of the Supreme Soviet and the elected Congress of People's Deputies. However, these bodies are not as liberal or progressive as is often supposed.

The Congress of People's Deputies is more likely to balk at the urgently needed price and currency reforms than is the party leadership. However, by the end of 1990 those reforms may be urgently adopted as the only way for Moscow to enter the international market.

So far, Mr Gorbachev's foreign travel schedule looks less challenging than last year's. The hoped-for opening to the East has been thwarted by China's return to isolation and Japan's continued wariness.

The ambitious arms control programme set at Malta is unlikely to be fully met and might cause friction before the planned Washington summit in June. Policy towards Western Europe can only be on hold, until a new definition of Mr Gorbachev's "Common European Home" has been devised to accommodate a firm border between the two Germanies.

EASTERN EUROPE

Roger Boyes

How communist states should share power, how to save domestic economies from collapse, how to cope with changes in Germany and Russia: these are the questions that will nag Eastern Europe during 1990.

If 1989 was the year of incomplete revolutions, 1990 will be a year of transition from the old order that finally broke down to a new, unknown world of market forces, populist pressures, and competing parties.

The oppositions in Czech-

oslovakia and East Germany will try to channel some of the force of their street protests into a more organised form. Only a disciplined hierarchical opposition can clinch power-sharing deals with the communists. Czechoslovakia - under President Havel - stands the best chance of success.

But there will be a serious split in the opposition between those leaders who want to tap the spirit of 1968, of socialism with a human face, and the mass of discontented youth who will reject socialism in all its forms.

In East Germany the party leadership will try to buy time to remodel the Communists into a social democratic party before free elections.

Increasingly, talk of reunification will be conducted between West German Social Democrats and East German pro-social democrats. Herr Markus Wolf, the former secret police chief, will rise and rise.

Both Poland and Hungary will struggle to keep control of their reformist agendas. The free market plans of the Solidarity-led Government will put more pressure on the Poles. Since there is effectively no opposition in Poland, discontent will bubble over in street riots.

Solidarity will try to sidestep these problems by radicalising the political environment, fighting local elections and then urging early national, and truly free, elections.

Hungary, too, will try to dodge some of its painful economic problems by moving faster on political reform.

Mr Petur Mladenov, the Bulgarian leader, will try to restore some of the broken bridges with the Turkish minority and introduce cautious economic reforms. Moves towards a multiple party system will prove to be a sham.

Protest, power struggles and economic booms rising in the East



Pressure on Peking: About 15,000 people parading at the headquarters of the New China News Agency, Peking's de facto embassy in Hong Kong yesterday, calling for democracy in China and demanding the resignation of the Chinese leadership.

Diplomacy and drugs set to mark the future across the Atlantic

UNITED STATES

Peter Stothard

For American foreign policy, 1990 will be the year of the diplomat, with as many face-to-face meetings with European counterparts as there are sub-clauses in a strategic arms deal.

A formal treaty to reduce the levels of strategic arms will not be signed at the Washington summit in the summer, but something close to it will be initiated for the cameras. That "something close" will involve big concessions by the United States.

The Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) talks to pull Soviet troops out of Eastern Europe, meanwhile, will proceed more slowly. This is a fact which will not prevent a semi-official American offer, leaked through the semi-official parts of the US media, to go well beyond the CFE offer of cuts.

The budget crisis will be contained - but only by rather reductions in defence expenditure than is wholly prudent.

President Bush will bring Mr Gorbachev to Texas; if the Soviet leader wants to go to California, or Kazakhstan, he will go there too. A Republican is fighting a tough battle in the autumn mid-term elections.

Britain's forcible repatriation of Vietnamese boat people from Hong Kong will be stopped by American opposition, not least because Mr James Baker, the Secretary of State, will not give up until it is Anglo-American amity will return.

At home, there will be "no new taxes", and the wilder, irrational America will return

to its customary pre-eminence, triumphing over the President's "kinder, gentler" one.

The San Francisco sage who, as astrologer to Mrs Nancy Reagan, the former First Lady, once told the Mr Ronald Reagan, the former President, when it was safe to leave home, will be paid several million dollars for her story.

Congress will expound at length about cleansing both the air and itself, but neither political ethics nor the nation's air will improve. Mr Alan Cranston, the man most deeply bogged down in the Keating Five corruption investigation over campaign contributions, will be the Senate's sacrificial lamb.

Frustrated by the US Government's failure to put money where its mouth is, and his own failure to make it into the Cabinet, President Bush's "drugs czar" Mr William Bennett, who once dated Janis Joplin, the drug-addicted rock star, will resign.

Vice-President Dan Quayle will go to Europe to prove that Mr Baker cannot restrict his territory to points west of Bermuda. The visit will be a surprise success.

The Nicaraguan election will be rigged in President Ortega's favour, but not so crudely as to prevent its endorsement by UN observers. The removal of General Manuel Noriega from Panama may help Americans forget the disaster in Nicaragua.

There will be a rash of exposures of East bloc spies as a result of the dispersion into the intelligence community of KGB documents taken from Berlin and Prague.

President Gorbachev will say "sorry", will double the

budget for KGB agents and hire his own San Francisco soothsayer to help out when they are busy. But New Year prediction is out in President Bush's Washington - Nancy Reagan's astrologer saw to that.

LATIN AMERICA

Mac Margolis

For most of Latin America, prediction for the coming year will be clouded by the failures of the past decade. The Eighties ought to have been a time of celebration. One by one, military dictatorships fell throughout the continent. Ballots replaced bayonets, and suddenly enfranchised voters discovered that generals who rule with an iron hand finally stand on feet of clay.

Now, the list of full-fledged Latin dictatorships has dwindled to two, Haiti and Cuba, with the future of a third, Nicaragua, hanging in the balance. The fate of Panama is still anyone's guess.

But the new democracies, from San Salvador to Santiago, have encountered daunting obstacles. How skillfully the leaders negotiate them in



President Menem: Acrobatic steps may not be enough.

died to two, Haiti and Cuba, with the future of a third, Nicaragua, hanging in the balance. The fate of Panama is still anyone's guess.

But the new democracies, from San Salvador to Santiago, have encountered daunting obstacles. How skillfully the leaders negotiate them in

the new year will determine not only the viability of their governments but the tender freedoms their people have only so recently won.

In Central America, fighting in El Salvador and Guatemala, and the Contra war in Nicaragua, may smoulder on for some time, but their sponsors in Washington and Moscow appear less eager now to fan the flames.

For South America, the picture is murkier still. Huge foreign debts, ballooning budget deficits, dizzying inflation and the immobility of entrenched political elites has conspired to stunt economic growth and stifle hopes for hundreds of millions.

Two nations, Argentina and Bolivia, pitched head-long into hyper-inflation. Argentina is not out of the woods yet, despite acrobatic austerity plans by President Menem. Another two nations, Brazil and Peru, hover now on the precipice of price chaos. A simple policy miscalculation could bring the angry poor storming on to the streets.

But perhaps most tragic of all is the drug plague sweeping the continent. To the cocaine countries, Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia, it is really a problem of supply and demand. To the consumer regions, such as the US and Western Europe, the problem is just the reverse. The stakes couldn't be higher. Police battle cocaine and crack on the streets of London, New York and Berlin, while embattled Latin-American leaders fight shadow governments of drug runners who are armed to the teeth.

As the drug toll rises on both sides of the Equator, the problem looks likely only to get worse.

CHINA

Catherine Sampson

The June massacre and subsequent arrests and executions have effectively silenced anti-government protests in China.

Political repression is still heavy, but analysts believe factors for instability are too many and varied - and the Communist Party too alienated from those it rules - for 1990 to be entirely peaceful.

A geriatric leadership makes death one of the most significant players. A power struggle after the death of Mr Deng Xiaoping, the elder statesman, could herald chaos.

If Mr Zhao Ziyang, the disgraced former Communist Party General Secretary, died, there could be mass mourning of the sort which sparked the student demonstrations after the death of Hu Yaobang.

Deaths of hated leaders might bring about mass rejoicing; deaths of veteran revolutionaries might change the balance of power and intensify the struggle between conservatives and reformists.

The anniversary of the June 4 massacre is unlikely to pass

without incident. The Asian Games present another opportunity for embarrassing the Government. A large foreign presence would make it difficult for the Army to move in on demonstrators.

Workers are already angry about their straitened circumstances. In many factories, bonuses have been withdrawn, leading to worker dissatisfaction and falling production. If this continues, an explosion of worker anger and economic collapse may coincide.

China's headline condemnation of the West is expected to ease as relations with the United States improve. A compromise solution will probably be reached, allowing the dissidents Mr Fang Lizhi and Mr Li Shuxian to emerge from their refuge in the US embassy and leave for a third country.

China will make hay out of the problems which are bound to emerge as Eastern Europe transforms itself, inveighing against any step towards a Western-style democracy. Relations with the Soviet Union will cool.

Confrontation between China and Britain is expected

to intensify over the speed of democratization before 1997, focusing primarily on the Hong Kong Legislative Council elections in 1991. The mandatory repatriation scheme will limp along but will fail to halt the flow of Vietnamese boat people, and there will be more calls for an end to the port of first asylum status.

JAPAN

Joe Joseph

When Japan was rapidly swapping prime ministers last summer, 1990 was expected to mark a turning point in Japanese politics, the end of the post-war domination of the Liberal Democrats and the blossoming of Socialist power.

It won't. Japan Inc will regain its composure and the government will maintain control after elections next month.

The Japanese will begin emptying their wallets more freely and will try to enjoy life more. As more Japanese travel to Europe and America, they will lose some of their fear of "abroad". These shopping-crazy travellers are likely

to complain more loudly about why they have to pay more for Japanese products in Japan than they do in London or New York.

Business will not be sacrificed to a more relaxed mood, especially with Japan's neighbours snapping at its heels.

Although there will be a change of leadership in Singapore after Mr Lee Kuan Yew resigns as Prime Minister at the end of the year, he is likely to stay a power in the land, ensuring that the country's booming economy remains a higher priority than a dose of political freedom.

In the Philippines President Aquino will be spending most of her time sorting out her country's economic mess.

An election expected in Malaysia would leave Dr Mahathir Mohamed, the Prime Minister, in power, while a bid in Indonesia for debating openness will not mask the fact that President Suharto retains a firm grip.

Conflict in Cambodia will remain the central figure in the drama, which guarantees that events in Cambodia will remain unpredictable.

THE EC

Michael Binyon

It will be a busy year for Europe in 1990. The quickening of pace in Brussels at the end of 1989 will continue, as the European Community approaches the completion of the internal market and takes decisive steps towards the landmark inter-governmental conference in December on economic and monetary union.

At the same time, the continuing turmoil in Eastern Europe will give Brussels a bigger say in reshaping the other half of the continent. And 1990 will determine whether the West can rescue the economies of Poland and Hungary, and how far it is prepared to go in helping the other reforming countries of the Eastern bloc.

The European Commission, co-ordinating the aid pledged by the Group of 24, will play the key role in guiding the necessary economic restructuring.

Throughout 1990, the Com-

mission will be engaged in negotiations to bring together the EC and the European Free Trade Area into the proposed 18-nation European Economic Space. A new treaty should be ready for signature by the end of 1990, marking a new stage in the political and economic convergence of Europe.

Leadership of the community will be in the hands first of the Irish and then of the Italians. Both presidencies are likely to be active in pushing ahead with the programme for 1992.

The Irish, committed Europeans and eager to show that a small country can bring the same energy to the task as the French, their predecessors, will continue the momentum of directives to remove barriers to full free movement of goods and people.

The main issues still to be resolved include measures to prevent fraud when all countries allow free movement of capital; the lifting of restrictions on foreign car imports;

the programme of measures outlined in the social charter; and the halting progress on lifting frontier controls within the 12 member states.

The Irish are planning to begin slowly, and January may be quiet while Dublin prepares successful council meetings later. But the Dublin summit in June will see more than two-thirds of the single market legislation on the statute book, and by the Rome summit in December the 1992 goal should be within sight.

The inter-governmental conference is due to open at the conclusion of the Rome summit. The Italians will push for as much progress on monetary union within their presidency as possible. But the real work is likely to wait until 1991. Meanwhile, the debate on the need to update community institutions to give the European Parliament greater democratic control over the community and to prepare for its possible enlargement after 1992 is likely to grow more intense. There may be strong

pressure during this preparatory year for the conference to consider both monetary and institutional questions together.

The dynamism of the community will continue. Talks will begin on a possible treaty between the EC and the US. The new widening Soviet-EC treaty will begin to take effect. And Brussels will move swiftly to negotiate a similar broad treaty of co-operation with East Germany, to come into effect before June.

Above all, the events in Eastern Europe, and especially the moves toward German reunification, will dominate the scene. All eyes will be on Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, as the EC moves to strengthen political co-operation. The coming year is likely to see greater German assertiveness and the realization that on all the main issues - EMU, Eastern Europe and political integration - West Germany holds the key.

Little light over Dark Continent

AFRICA

Rosemary Richter

The four horsemen of Africa's apocalypse will continue to ride much of the continent in 1990. They are civil war; misgovernment and corruption; a population doubling every two decades, so fast that economic growth cannot keep pace with social demands; and, linked to the first three, grinding poverty and environmental degradation.

The physical patrimony of Africa is being lost at an alarming rate. The political culture is in turmoil.

Even in a good year, Black Africa cannot feed itself, and 1990 begins with the familiar symptoms of impending famine in Ethiopia and the serious

risk of a repeat of the widespread starvation in southern Sudan which killed around 250,000 people in 1988.

The central cause of these famines, if they do take place, will be the long-running civil wars in both countries.

Some wars which looked in sight of solution at the beginning of 1989 continue - in Angola, in the Western Sahara, in Mozambique. Others, notably in Somalia, have sharpened.

The suffering imposed on ordinary people by Africa's continuing political turmoil is illustrated by the existence of four million refugees and the displacement within their own countries of a further 12 million people.

In theory, superpower co-operation in 1990 should lend wings, as it did over Namibia,

to the peaceful settlement of disputes in the Horn and in Southern Africa. But lessening East-West rivalry has also taken Africa out of the limelight.

Increasingly marginalized politically and economically, Africans may have to provide more evidence of willingness to help themselves in 1990 - not just economically, but in the reform of their national institutions.

The fact that more and more Africans recognize this provides the best ground for optimism. Of the 44 countries of Black Africa, half could now be said to be seriously embarked on reforming their economic policies, cutting back bureaucracies and easing the state controls which have strangled enterprise and trade, paying their farmers fairer

prices for their crops and introducing currency reforms.

Pressures for political reform are beginning to build, but the trends are not promising. In many countries repression will probably deepen in 1990.

Anxiety over the diversion of aid and investment to Eastern Europe might act as a spur to reforms at home. Younger Africans in particular are becoming more vocal about the truth that their governments are the problem, not the solution.

The successes of Ghana's idiosyncratic soldier-leader, Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, in putting the country back on the road to economic sanity could provide a model elsewhere. But few countries are likely to progress beyond crisis-management in 1990.

هَذَا من الأصل

SPECTRUM

The sheriff of Cocaine City

As Noriega's henchmen prepare to face the American courts, and the authorities in Colombia claim a rare success, Gitta Sereny meets a Miami drug-buster leading the fight against the barons of the Medellin

This afternoon, a court in Miami, Florida, is expected to refuse bail to Lieutenant-Colonel Luis del Cid, the most recent big prize in America's war against the South American drug traffickers. Del Cid, the former chief of intelligence of the Panama Defence Force, surrendered to US forces on Christmas Day and was immediately flown to Miami.

He is considered General Manuel Noriega's principal money conduit, and headed, with Noriega, a list of 16 individuals indicted in Miami on February 8, 1988.

The trial of two other alleged drug barons — William Sotomayor and Brian Davidson — was due to have been held on January 8 after their extradition to the United States, but has been postponed for a month. "By that time we expect to have several more of them," said Myles Malman, the jubilant trial attorney.

Thomas Cash, special agent in charge of the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) for the Caribbean, says his department has investigated Noriega "for years".

"But while diplomatic negotiations are going on, we can't even mention the sums he has amassed. He made a very clever move to seek refuge with the Papal Nuncio in Panama. But he doesn't know how patient we can be. We don't care if he digs in for five or six years — we can wait."

Patience is something that Cash, arguably America's leading drug traffic investigator, has had to learn the hard way. "The drug problem now," he says, "is unlike anything we have ever faced in law enforcement."

The Miami, in which he operates, is a world away from the hotels and beaches of the holiday posters. Its population is 35 per cent white, 17 per cent black, and 44 per cent Hispanic. "It is the closest major US city to South America, and that fact rules our lives," he says.

A career narcotics officer, Cash has worked in the field since 1964. He has been DEA Special Agent in Bonn, Paris, Atlanta, New York and Washington — where he acted as

(then) Vice President Bush's adviser on drugs. His present appointment in Miami is considered the most important in the US, if not the world. "Miami is to drugs what Detroit is to cars," he says.

The DEA employs 5,000 people, staffing 122 offices in the US and 65 offices in 46 countries around the world. In Florida, the organizational centre of the South American drug traffic into the US, hundreds of agents must control a huge land area, plus the 8,000 miles of coastal waters.

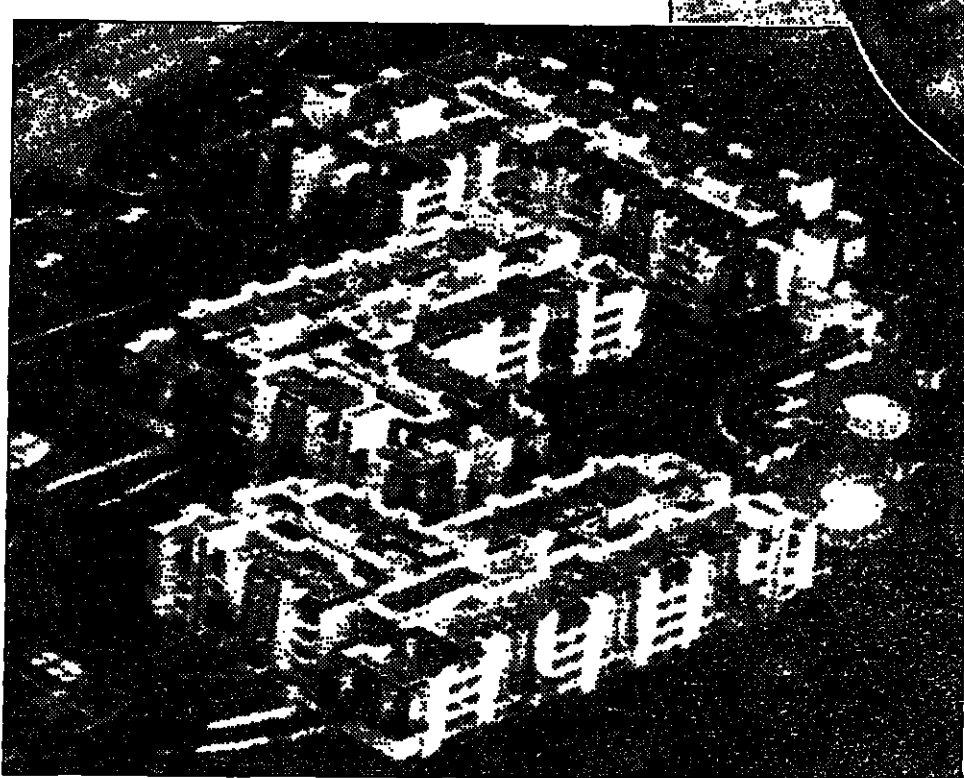
A wealth of research has been done on American drug users, "and everything that has happened here is now explosively happening in Europe," Cash says.

In the US there are 5.8 million "coke" users, across the social spectrum. "In Florida," Cash says, "we don't have much of a consumer problem. It may be significant that Colombia, which rules the world of cocaine, doesn't have much of a consumer problem either. Miami is the main transit point for cocaine into the US and the movers and shakers are the Colombians. The Peruvian and Bolivian peasants who grow the coca leaves only understand that the Colombians pay \$60 per hundredweight of leaves. There is no awareness there, only need."

But the Colombians are highly intelligent and sophisticated. Their organization borders on being computerized and the billions the traffic generates are transferred electronically through a maze of banks.

The Colombian drug cartels send their young people to the US to train: they go to school, become Americanized, learn English — who's who in the world of finance, and then are established as linkmen. Nevertheless, the authorities in Colombia are starting to make some inroads into their organization. At the weekend it was revealed that three major traffickers had been arrested and a secret tunnel found on the ranch of a cartel leader who was killed by the security forces two weeks ago.

Other cartel members remain free. Cash says that two



The hunter and his target: Thomas Cash and (left) a Florida condominium which has been confiscated from the drug barons

'People who compare the cartels with the Mafia don't understand. The Colombians kill anyone, anywhere. And the Mafia doesn't run for office'

of them, the brothers Fabio and Jorge Luis Ochoa, have established a complex management structure during the past 12 years. According to *Forbes* (the American business magazine), they and another baron, Pablo Escobar, rank among the 500 wealthiest men in the world.

"People who compare the drug cartels with the Mafia don't understand. The Colombians kill anyone, anywhere. The Mafia may control politicians, but it does not run for office: the drug barons do."

Cash admires President Bush. "I'm totally flabbergasted by the manifesta-

tions of ignorance at political levels of what the drug problem really means," he says. "Mrs Thatcher appears to have an inkling; your David Mellor came here to learn — and he found out what it's all about. But Bush is the first statesman to have a real understanding — not just of the effects, but of the economic origins of the drug problem."

"For years in the US, followed, alas, by the rest of the world, we employed the 'silver bullet' — the stop-gap approach, calling on the FBI, the army, the navy, the CIA, the health authorities for help.

This approach can be identified in three stages. "The first stage is denial: we don't have a problem; coke has been used intermittently since year one; a few social butterflies indulge, but the country as a whole is clean."

"The second, and the longest, stage is recognition: yes, it exists, but only among the down-trodden, the poor, the black; the problem is contained."

"And then comes the panic stage: you realize that more people have to be arrested than you have prisons to put them in. Coke is rampant, and babies are born with crack problems."

"The first reaction, then, is: 'We need more police, customs officers, arrests.' That's what's happening in Britain now; carriers, with five or 10 kilos sewn into the sides of their suitcases, are arrested at Heathrow, just as they were, some years ago, at Kennedy, Dulles, Miami. But what purpose does it serve? We cannot make our countries impenetrable."

"When that obviously doesn't work, the cry goes up: 'Legalize drugs; then we can tax them, control them.' But how? Drugs are already getting

cheaper, with new derivatives coming up all the time. Legalize everything? Register everybody who wants to buy? Where would the limit be — 21 years old, 16, 12? Legalize it and it'll erupt."

Cash feels that the attack must be made on four fronts simultaneously: assist in the essential economic changes for the people of the Andes; continue legal pressure, particularly with arrests of the drug bosses; attack the cartels' profits, and, finally, attack demand by education.

"We are making a start," he says. "Let's not think it is hopeless — just very, very difficult."

But already, he says, President Bush, Mrs Thatcher — the West Germans and French, too, he thinks — have accepted that the billions it will cost to help restructure life for the people of the Andes must be found. "There are people in South America, the Colombian media in particular, who support America's demands for the extradition of those who have offended US laws on US soil."

"The first big one we caught was Carlos Lehder, a Colombian drug baron with dual [German] citizenship," he

says. "We had wanted him for a long time. It was Lehder who first used the Bahamas as the bridge to Florida."

"At the time of his arrest, he threatened he would kill one DEA agent and one Federal judge for every day he was in prison. He was convicted in May, 1988 and sentenced to life plus 135 years."

"In Colombia, over the years, the traffickers have killed legions. They give their prospective victims a choice: *plata o plomo* — silver or lead. To those who oppose them, as many heroic Colombians have done, they send a little shoe-box. Inside is a small tape: it shows the target's child (whom he thought was safely hidden in Switzerland) going to school; it shows his wife (supposedly safe in Mexico) shopping. It is the death notice for both."

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"The first big one we caught was Carlos Lehder, a Colombian drug baron with dual [German] citizenship," he

James McAdams is chief of the Major Narcotics Section for the Southern District of Florida. As Assistant US Attorney, he holds the second highest place in the state's legal pecking order. He is cynical about defendants, and depressed about the whole business. "It's all about money — and they are all scum. I have ceased to care why they do it. I have to find them, prosecute them, destroy them: that's it."

"They crave legitimacy. They buy vast areas of land and turn themselves into pseudo-aristocrats — disgusting. They buy soccer teams and see themselves as national heroes — disgusting. They finance political candidates and run for political office... all disgusting."

He showed photographs of huge sky-scraper condominiums and beachside estates. "The Ochoa brothers bought this — can you imagine the gall? They install their families here for happy holidays. We do seize their money — in Miami alone we seized \$20 million (£12.5 million) in assets last year."

Last year, the DEA seized traffickers' assets worth in excess of \$650 million (£400 million), including millions in Swiss bank accounts. "Our whole agency is run on a budget of \$580 million a year," Cash says. "So we seized more than our appropriation."

McAdams agrees with Cash that, while assets must be seized, it doesn't solve the problem. "But when we know exactly how they operate their money dealings, then, if all other countries and their agencies — and banks — co-operate, we'll get close to shutting them down."

Cash believes that demand must be attacked at the same time. "And here we have had real successes," he says. In America, the educated young in particular have understood: cocaine usage has markedly decreased since 1985.

In all this, he says, Europe has the tremendous advantage of being able to use America's experience, without having to go through all its stages. "Of course, we don't have the complete answer yet. But we know we have to wean millions of South Americans away from growing coke, and assist them to have a life worth living without it; we have to help educate their young in this direction. And, above all, we have to support to the utmost every man and woman of courage in those countries. And that has to be done now."

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Landlubbers at sea in a world of slang

Groups of men shut away from the rest of the world are creators of slang, argot and playful private languages. It helps to pass the time and gives them the reassuring feeling of belonging to an exclusive masculine club. In this way prisons, boarding schools and ships are prolific sources of slang, which seeps out to mystify and entertain the outside world.

William Golding's trilogy about a voyage to Australia in a Royal Navy ship in the early 19th century is particularly rich in the salt sea slang of the period. There have been attempts to record some of our nautical slang, for example by Peter Kemp in his *Oxford Companion to Ships and the Sea* and by Eric Partridge, that omnivorous Kiwi genius of all sorts of slang.

Now we have a lively dictionary and reference to the slang, euphemisms, idioms and usage — past and current — of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines. It is rather

laboriously entitled *Jackpeak: The Pusser's Rum Guide to Royal Navy Slang*, and costs £8.95 from the appropriately remote port-in-a-storm of Palamando Publishing, PO Box 42, Torpoint, Cornwall. Pusser is one of the ubiquitous words of Royal Navy slang, and can be used as noun, adjective or even verb. It means something like koshier, in another slang.

Pusser's rum is proper Navy rum, unlike bogus brands that try to climb on the jollyboat by including the words "navy" or "naval" in their names. To illustrate the huge range of the word, pusser's dust is a false economy, a really pusser officer is somebody who is absolutely formal in both dress and deportment.

Pusser, of course, comes from purser, the paymaster and supplies officer of the old Navy, an appointment which is still made in the Merchant Navy. In the Royal Navy

NEW WORDS FOR OLD



he is now entitled a ship's or establishment's supply officer, but is still called the pusser. A pusser is any officer of the supply and secretariat specialization. Any badly tailored garment is said to fit like a pusser's shirt. It is a multi-purpose word. This useful compilation, opening

portholes on the foam of perilous seas for outsiders, has been made by Rick Jolly, a surgeon commander in the Royal Navy, at present holding a Defence Fellowship at the Ministry of Defence. His professional interests lie in the topic of battle stress, and its particular effect on command.

But he became hooked on naval slang as a green surgeon lieutenant in Malta. His first patient was a tall and hearty Royal Marines corporal, who told him that he had "caught the boat up". As Dom Mintoff was in the process of booting the Royal Navy out of Malta, Jolly was puzzled, but assumed that his customer was delighted to have been chosen for a sea voyage back to England. Or had he been selected for service in submarines? So he congratulated him. The corporal looked confused.

"To catch the boat up" is a very old naval expression derived from the fact that Jack was not allowed

ashore, even when sick, in the days of sail, for fear that he would desert. The naval hospitals at Portsmouth and Plymouth were positioned on creeks so that they could be reached by water without anybody going ashore.

The sick-boat would circulate among the warships anchored offshore, take off those who were ill or injured, and then transport them to either Haslar or Stonehouse creeks. "Up the creek" originally referred to the poor chance that Jack gave to anybody going to a naval hospital of coming out other than feet first, wrapped up in a tarpaulin jacket.

To "push the boat out" refers to a celebration before sailing. But to "catch the boat up" means to have contracted a social disease. These are deep waters of nautical slang, into which landlubbers venture in danger of misapprehension.

Philip Howard

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TIMES DIARY

JOSEPH CONNOLLY

After all the reviews of the turbulent Eighties, I find myself increasingly intrigued by the permanence of institutions that quietly weather the decades no matter what goes on in the outside world — in a nutshell, London clubs, the oldest of which is White's, which in three years' time will celebrate its tricentenary. Members have been known to refer to Boodle's (1762) and Brooks's (1764) as relatively arrivistes, "but there is no bias among the membership of White's," says the secretary, William H. West. "I suppose we do lean to the Conservative side — landowners, gentry sort of thing. But you can be a Christian, Jew or anything else — so long as you are a gentleman." And, so long as you are proposed by one member, seconded by two, and voted in by at least 20 more of the 1,300-strong membership then you wait nine years to get in.

What about ladies? "Oh good God no," protests West. Why not? "Well my honest answer is because wives feel happier knowing their husbands are here, not being chatted up by some sort of girl — but mainly because members are free to burp, swear and fart in peace."

The Garrick encourages a "very clubbable sort of fellow," according to the secretary, Martin Harvey, and it certainly seems to succeed. Kingsley Amis yearned for a grandson mainly so that he could take him to lunch at the Garrick on his 21st birthday. "Not much chance of that now," says 67-year-old Kingsley in consideration of Martin's four-year-old lad. "We like the proposer and second of a prospective new member to have five or ten years' knowledge of the club," says Harvey, "and it's desirable that he leans to the arts, theatre, that sort of thing." Women have been clamouring for membership of the Garrick for decades, so how about it? "Women?" responds the affable Harvey, "ah yes, women. Well actually, there's nothing in our constitution that specifically forbids them; it's just that not one has ever, um, joined. And of course," he adds — with tongue practically perforating his cheek — "what with our ten-year waiting list, we feel it would be rather unkind to encourage female, um, proposals."

Founded nearly five years ago, partly in response to the Garrick's exclusive attitude, the Grange Club was an immediate hit in the publishing, writing and newspaper worlds, although I gather that the committee has been stung by recent adverse comment on the number of members who are "not quite right". "In short," I was told, "we don't want any more window-dressers and bloody admen." The assistant secretary seemed a charming girl and urged me to do what I have long considered — join. "There's only six months waiting," she said, "if you are accepted, of course."

BARRY FANTONI



"Neville's frantic — he's trying to synchronize the central heating clock with the oven timer and his digital alarm!"

Auberger's Academy Club is the newest on the scene, its constitution including terribly witty provisos such as "Members must wear shoes", and so on. I telephoned Robert Posner, the membership secretary, to see how the club was faring in its first few weeks. Only to be told that it was policy not to talk to the press because it did not want any publicity — which is one of the funniest things I have heard in ages.

Joining Annabel's (the Sixties disco) seems to be a dismal process: a member writes in for a detailed form to be filled in and signed by proposer and seconder, whereupon this is submitted and the hapless pair get down to writing two long letters to the membership secretary, who passes them to the committee, and they approve, the lucky new member is allowed through the door after only two or three years. I talked to a Sloane who possessed of hysterical discretion. "That is all I can tell you. Number of members? No, I can't tell you. Do I like Annabel's? No, I can't tell you; well, I am prepared to say yes, but I don't want to be quoted in *The Times*."

At groovy old Trump, things are altogether more leisurely. "Waiting list? It depends," I was told, "on natural wastage."

I am not sure, now, how I had originally intended to earmark the decade just gone. It is, of course, not the only thing I am not sure of at this moment, because this moment is a mere eight hours or so into the new decade. I am, for example, not sure of the whereabouts of my other shoe. I am not sure why, each time a type-key detonates upon the platoon, a tiny shard of brain shears off and drops, vibrating, somewhere down behind my tonsils. I am not sure how long it will take before I can resume my normal method of igniting a cigarette, instead of holding the lighter stable on the desk in front of me with both hands and slowing inching my head towards the flame until, rude, trembling contact is made.

But all this is as you would expect on New Decade's Day, when retribution follows so

A firm foundation for private initiative

What do I hope for in the 1990s? It must be an innovation that brings about more innovation. One way to achieve this objective is to establish a foundation. I shall call it the ABC Foundation because it would have to do all manner of things, but if anyone wants to set it up and attach his or her name to it, the recipients of such beneficence will probably not mind.

Britain has a large number of foundations, to be sure. Some, such as the Leverhulme and the Nuffield, have a distinguished record of supporting social causes and social research; others, such as the Gatsby, have helped to promote political diversity and informed debate. Numerous smaller foundations have been established in recent years by public-spirited businessmen. Large, specialized foundations operate in medical research and ecclesiastical areas.

What is missing, however, is a single large foundation to set the tone for the rest. The Council for Charitable Support can do so much, but it has to nudge others

rather than do things itself. What we need is a Ford Foundation or a Rockefeller Foundation, or even one which holds its own with the newer MacArthur Foundation of Chicago.

For anyone, almost anywhere, seeking funds for a new venture still thinks initially of the American foundations. A savings bank for the poor in Bangladesh? Support for breeding new breeds of rice? Expanding the study of international relations at Oxford? A conference on party systems and electoral law in Israel? Enabling Soviet editors to come to the West? The first resort is always to ask the Ford, Rockefeller, MacArthur, Soros or A.N. Other US foundation.

I am chairman of a foundation of foundations called the Central and East European Publishing Project, which aims to create a "common market of the mind" all over Europe. Ninety per cent of our funds come from America, the rest from Holland and Portugal. This is shameful; it must be rectified.

We do not need a foundation which spends all its funds

In the first of a series on reforms for the 1990s, Ralf Dahrendorf asks men of means to back original ideas

abroad; there are enough issues at home. Who finances an access course for disadvantaged minorities in south London? Who can set up a commission on higher education at a time when government shuns traditional methods of advice? Who can try out a scheme of basic income guarantees along the lines of the Deaver/Seattle experiments in the US? Who will support the creation of a few posts in an under-developed area of study? Who will provide matching funds for a corporation to support local initiatives? To whom does one turn if one has an idea about neighbourhood watch systems? There are answers, to be sure; there may even be offers; but there is no one institution in this country — or indeed in Europe — which has the seed money and the will to set all

these ideas, and many others, in motion.

For the ABC Foundation to be a success, three conditions must be satisfied. First, it has to be big. The Ford Foundation has a capital of more than \$5 billion, and it is obliged by US law to spend at least 5 per cent of its corpus every year. The ABC Foundation would need an endowment of £1 billion to serve its purpose. There are people who could make this kind of money available, and perhaps someone will find the prospect of a large foundation more attractive than that of using the money to breed more money. Probably, other ways will have to be found to bring it about.

It may go against the grain, but it is not intrinsically absurd to suggest that a government interested in innovation and in-

dependent sources of reform might make a one-off contribution, for example in the form of shares in a company created by privatization. (The Volkswagen Foundation in Germany is the nearest to a European equivalent of the American foundations, and came about in this way.) Conceivably, an existing organization such as the Charities Aid Foundation could bring together a consortium.

Either way, the second condition is that the ABC Foundation must be free to spend its £50 million a year as it sees fit. It must be independent, and accountable only to a board of people who have the public interest at heart. This too has become an unfashionable notion in the last decade, but such people still exist, and many believe that it is possible to set up a board which does a responsible job without being controlled by government.

But this is just one of the risks. Another is that the idiosyncrasies of the principal private donors will prevail. Anyone who has watched the establishment of

foundations will know that giving money is as difficult as making it, and perhaps more so. Unless the donor were to step back, trust others and settle for long-term and generally indirect results of his or her generosity, the ABC Foundation would be doomed from the beginning.

The third condition is that the ABC Foundation would have to build up considerable in-house expertise. It should not be an administrative monster, to be sure, but neither should it be a mere grant-giving organization relying on familiar referees and merely adding a bit of money to existing systems. Every now and again, people should be outraged by the ABC Foundation because it supports minority causes. Its £50 million a year should not be spent like seed money from government-controlled institutions. It should be a source of progress and freedom in a country proud of its civil society. Is there anyone who feels strongly enough about such objectives to make them his or her own?

The author is Warden of St. Antony's College, Oxford.

Peter Carrington sets a course for Nato after the loosening of the Warsaw Pact

Peace in permanent session

Most of us are inclined to like certainty and predictability, even when they are both expensive and disagreeable. Over the past 45 years, we in the West have lived in the shadow of a superpower to the east which, with its allies, has had (and still has) an enormous military potential, a nuclear armory and considerable conventional superiority, together with a political system seemingly dedicated to the propagation of the Marxist system and global expansion. To preserve our security and way of life, we felt it necessary to create Nato, and to spend a large part of our national wealth on armaments.

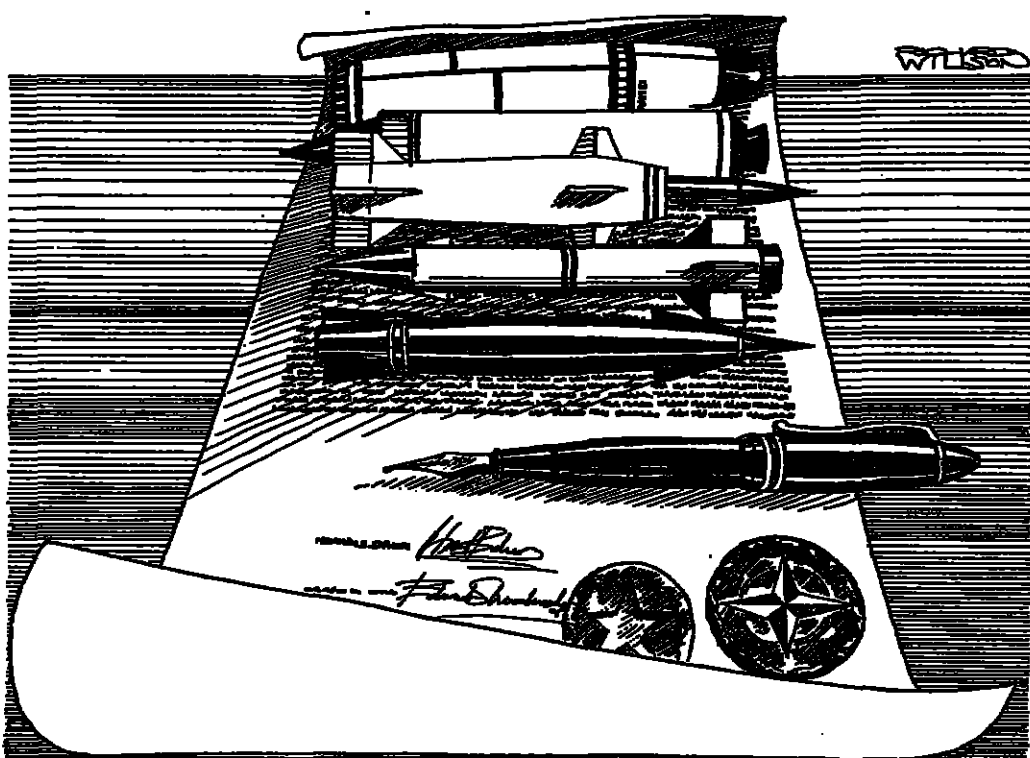
The change during the past few months has left us uncertain as to the direction in which we should be moving. Western Europe and North America are vitally concerned in developments in Eastern Europe and in the Soviet Union. It is impossible, as President Bush has made clear, for the future relationship between the two superpowers or the direction of Europe as a whole to be settled over the heads of Europeans from both West and East.

Equally, since security plays such a vital part in the maintenance of our way of life — and US involvement in Europe will be essential for the foreseeable future — we cannot ourselves

settle our future in Europe without the participation of our American allies; nor can we forget the neutral countries of Europe which belong neither to the EC nor to Nato, but have systems of government similar to those of Western Europe and who, as members of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), are closely associated with the 12 members of the EC.

At the same time, we must have regard to the anxieties that the upheavals in Eastern Europe are causing in the Soviet Union. The Russians are concerned about the security of their motherland. They have had experience of invasion through the centuries. The Yalta conference towards the end of the Second World War was concerned to a very large extent with such anxieties, and the creation of communist Eastern Europe and the Warsaw Pact largely arose from that fear.

The idea of invasion of the Soviet Union by the West may seem very far-fetched to those of us who know the capabilities and intentions of the Western democracies, but it is as well to remember that our security depends to a considerable degree on whether or not the Soviet Union itself feels secure. We must be careful to avoid a situation in which the insecurity felt in the Soviet Union leads to insecurity in the West too.



Some in the Soviet Union must now fear that even if the Warsaw Pact remains in existence, it will become less and less credible as its members turn their backs on communism. The West must reassure the Soviet Union that it has no intention of taking military advantage of the upheavals in Eastern Europe.

It is significant therefore that James Baker, the American Secretary of State, has proposed that Nato should play a more political role. It is of course true that Nato has always had a political role in reducing tension between East and West. This was re-emphasized more than 20 years ago in the Harnel report, which laid down the two roles of Nato: that of ensuring Western security — a role which will continue to have, for even if the changes in Eastern Europe are irreversible, it is too soon to

say the same of the Soviet Union — and, secondly, of working towards a better relationship between the two blocs.

Hitherto, however, Nato has not been very active in the diplomatic field. This has been largely due to the impracticability of any dialogue between East and West. There was a short period during Khrushchev's leadership when a dialogue might have been possible, but the rigidity of Soviet policy has until recently ruled out any worthwhile negotiation.

Gorbachev's arrival has dramatically altered the situation. It is of course true that much of what he has suggested has been on offer from the West for very many years, but it takes two to make an agreement. It is Gorbachev who has given us the opportunity to create a different Europe.

So it is encouraging that

Manfred Wörner, my successor as Nato secretary-general, has met Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, and that there is a greater realization among the member countries that Nato has an important political role to play, primarily in the field of security and arms control. As the only alliance in which North America and all the countries of Western Europe are represented, Nato is the ideal forum for this task.

However, the Nato council (comprising the ambassadors of the member nations) in permanent session is not ideally suited to take the lead. Consideration should be given to much closer involvement of the political directors from the foreign offices. Another possibility to consider is the creation of a new body, chaired by the secretary-general, in which each country would be represented by the

number two, the Foreign Office Minister or equivalent. This would have the political clout and, I hope, the impetus and the sense of urgency which are vital. The EC should be more closely concerned with the political restructuring of Europe, and it and Nato must work closely together. One major issue with which the EC will have to deal is its relationship with the EFTA countries in these new circumstances. If neutralism has been the problem up to now, it is clearly less of a hindrance than existing or former membership of the Warsaw Pact.

The possible unification of Germany must loom large on the agenda. Whatever may be said, it is clear that if the East and West Germans want reunification, it will come about. A reunified Germany would, in EC terms, be an economic giant. The combination of the technological and industrial strength of West Germany and the pool of young labour available in East Germany would create a formidable economic force.

In the next decade, economic power will be at least as important as military capacity. (We have only to look at the emergence of Japan in the 1980s to understand this.) So it will be necessary for the EC to prepare for possible reunification and for Nato to look hard at the likely consequences. A neutral Germany would gravely weaken our security, but a reunified Germany belonging to Nato might well be regarded with some alarm by the Soviet Union.

It is too soon to be sure how the political structure of Eastern Europe will develop. But, for us, the continuing need for US involvement in our security and for a stable and closely-knit European Community are essential ingredients.

Lord Carrington was Foreign Secretary, 1979-82, and Nato Secretary-General, 1984-88.

Bloodshed brothers in the land of Dracula

Woodrow Wyatt on the prospects for Hungarian-Romanian amity

Transylvania is evocative of the blood-sucking Count Dracula who never existed, and of Anthony Hope's Ruritania where brave heroes and pretty women abounded among beautiful mountains, valleys and forests. President Ceausescu fitted the part of Dracula with the addition of an appropriately evil wife. The heroes and heroines were Romanians and Hungarians. The arrest on December 17 of Laszlo Tokes, pastor of the Calvinist Hungarian Reformed Church in Timisoara, started the uprising.

The Hungarians who tried to protect him were joined by outraged Romanians. Laszlo Tokes had stubbornly opposed Ceausescu's relentless campaign to annihilate the language, culture and identity of the two million and more Hungarians in Romania. He denounced on television Ceausescu's planned destruction of ancient Transylvanian villages — intended to reduce all villagers, whether Hungarian, Romanian or German, to Identikit communist slaves, bereft of their roots.

Previously the Romanians were less stamped on than the

Hungarians, who provided a sub-class to look down on. If Ceausescu had stayed in power there would have been fair shares in oppression, apart from the process of obliterating the Hungarians' language and culture. It was not the first time that Hungarians in Transylvania were in the forefront of resistance. Most of Hungary was occupied by the Turks for around 140 years from 1526. It was the leadership of the Hungarians, under their Magyar chiefs, which, with Romanian support, kept the spirit of Hungary alive and the Turks out of Transylvania, thus preventing them from dominating much of Western Europe.

Transylvania, sacred to Hungarians, is also sacred to Romanians, always in a substantial majority there. Romanians treasure it for their links with the Dacians, conquered by Rome nearly 2,000 years ago. The Dacian and Latin cultures were fused. This was the origin of the Romanian national culture and its use of the Latin alphabet, the

removal of which infuriates Romanians in Russian-occupied Moldavia. In recent times, whenever Hungary has owned Transylvania, the Romanians have been roughly treated, and vice versa. The miracle since December 17 has been the co-operation between the two peoples. It was born of a joint transcending hatred of Ceausescu who, with his Securitate police and informers and his murderous methods, resembled the worst of any Roman emperor whose writ ever ran in Transylvania.

People-power in Romania must keep up the pressure to ensure the free elections promised for April. In the new provisional government there are communists, once willing servants of Ceausescu. The power base of the new government is the army, which waited long before showing reluctance to obey Ceausescu. It would be understandable if there were a continuing attachment to authoritarianism, which would prevent the light from shining on the sins of Ceausescu's days. But

the prospects seem favourable for some form of democracy, though it may involve a generous distribution of amnesties.

Mr Gorbachev has won praise for making possible and not stopping the overthrow of communist governments in Eastern Europe and in Romania. He had little option. Afghanistan showed the inability of the failing Soviet economy to support a tough colonial war. Mr Gorbachev must have realized that maintaining the military might to keep down the increasingly resentful European subject peoples was incompatible with a sufficient revival of the Soviet economy to mollify hungry Russians daily shorter of food and consumer goods. He plays skilfully with weak cards.

The alert and courageous Hungarians spotted this first. In Budapest last February I found them busily testing Gorbachev's non-interference limits. While hard-line communists still ruled in Warsaw, Hungarians had already abolished censorship and were planning free elections.

They were quickening the dismantling of state socialism to encourage entrepreneurs who had become increasingly active in the previous few years. Unbowed by the bloody Russian crushing of the 1956 revolution, Hungarians were probing for Moscow's reaction. It came in a statement that Hungary could do what it liked provided it stayed neutral. Hungary was the trail leader in removing communist governments which had looked impregnable.

It is not surprising that the Hungarians, who are as brave as they are ingenious, set off the Romanian revolution. The victorious powers in two world wars gave Transylvania, once two-thirds of Hungarian territory, to Romania. Last week the Hungarian foreign minister visited the new authorities in Bucharest. He assured them that Hungary will not ask for any change to the present boundaries. All Hungary asks is that Hungarians in Romania should be treated the same as Romanians, with proper regard to their language and

culture. Considering that in Romania the number of Hungarians is over a quarter of the population in Hungary itself, this is not unreasonable.

A new empathy has arisen between all Hungarians, wherever they live, and Romanians. Old scores are forgotten. Hungary, with the most prosperous economy in Eastern Europe, is anxious to help Romania convert one of the most rigid communist systems into fruitful free enterprise. Ahead of Romania in this commercial experience, Hungary's assistance and advice on how to do it may be more valuable than that of advanced industrial countries which never had the same problems.

During the fighting in Romania, Hungarians wept for those killed by Ceausescu's forces and were anguished when the revolution seemed to falter. They shared joyfully the final success of those they were thinking of as brothers. There is now the chance that out of fearful bloodshed two adjacent countries, with intermingled, once quarrelling populations, can make their lands fit for heroes to live in with reciprocal amity.

Pout your lip and think of England



ALAN COREN

swiftly upon the excesses of New Decade's Eve that you know that this is nature's way of slipping you a moral object lesson with which to kick off your decadent regeneration. Some of us, of course, have further to trudge down that purgative road than others, and that I suddenly find myself one of them is the part of New Decade's Day that I did not expect. When, a few short hours ago, the first cork flew out upon its inaugural mission, I fully believed that I should be remembering the 1980s as The Gorbachev Decade or The Bottom Decade or The Minogue Decade. How could I have guessed that all such culturally

momentous labels as had been jockeying for selection should, on a sudden, fade and curl and fall, and that I should be compelled to remember the 1980s as the decade when I kissed my first man?

For though it was just after midnight in France it was just after 11 pm in England when it happened, and let me tell you that, The Branagh Decade notwithstanding, gentlemen in England then a-bed should think themselves bloody fortunate they were not here, and hold their manhoods dear while any speaks that kissed with us upon New Decade's Day.

It had all started so promis-

ingly, too: a crystalline evening in the Riviera foothills, the stars twinkling off our patent topcoats as our dress shoes rang upon the frosty cobbles, the cheery British honking of our pre-lubricated

eightome bringing the locals scuttling to the windows high above us in ambivalent welcome, nine festive courses waiting to untied themselves at the finest restaurant in Tourrettes-sur-Loup, the sweet prospect of a bloated stagger homeward to a roaring log — what better accompaniment could one ask for a trip across the decadal divide?

Le Petit Manoir was full, though somewhat po-faced. Thirty habitués were shovelling up their crayfish and goose-liver with all the single-mindedness of the napkin-knuckled Gaul, and hardly glanced from their crockery as we bounced in. A bit unfestive, but that is because the cracker is

unknown in France; which is why we had imported our own. Within seconds of our sitting down, the restaurant was reeling beneath the bang and reek of cordite, the convivial winking of tiny plastic key-rings, the shriek and jest and motto, and the sight — of eight crowned heads firmly attached to the bodies beneath.

To give them their due, they rallied well. By midnight we had got half a dozen crowned, we had explained what was funny about a poulet crossing a rue, we had received agreement that a fallen streamer could do little to ruin a decent soup. Cordial entente reigned. And then, as midnight

struck, the chef appeared, gently raised me from my chair, and proffered his cheek.

"I don't think I can do this," I said to my wife.

"Don't think you have any option," she said. "He had sideburns on my lips before. The bloke at the next table had a beard. It was like eating a head. The head waiter was wearing the same aftershave as mine: a strange experience. My fourth conquest was tiny and bald, with the result that the most obvious target for my blonker left a sort of condescension in its wake that I fear has botched any chance of a second date."

I got through 14 Frenchmen last night. As for the Englishmen in our party, we sort of cyed on another for a bit, but that was all. Everyone was a bit quiet walking home, I thought.



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

THE SHIP STEADIES

The global economy enters the 1990s with the prospect of growth slowing in the industrialized market economies from the galloping pace of the latter years of the 1980s. The rise in interest rates in Europe, and most recently in Japan, will help to slow consumer spending and investment while the disinflationary policies of the US Federal Reserve have already put a brake on the US economy.

The result, according to the latest half-yearly Economic Outlook published by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, may be growth in the developed world of around 3 per cent this year and next, compared with more than 3½ per cent last year and nearly 4½ per cent in 1988.

This could be interpreted as the looked-for "soft landing" after a period in which inflationary momentum had again been building up in a number of countries, notably in Britain. The slight reduction in growth will help to contain inflation, which is expected to rise a little next year, averaging around 4½ per cent in the 24 OECD countries. Unemployment, however, still much too high for comfort in Western Europe, will probably stop falling.

Much depends on what happens to the investment boom which has been a major component of growth in West Germany and Japan. With profits coming under pressure in Europe, and a weaker yen reducing the incentive to Japanese industry to re-equip, investment next year could slow sharply.

But, as the OECD remarks, recent forecasts have tended to underestimate the buoyancy of the world economy. High levels of investment, lower taxes and deregulation have made economies more efficient, increasing their capacity to supply the goods and services people want without the risk of inflation. Measuring these supply side effects is a problem which economists have not yet satisfactorily solved, but no one doubts that they exist.

While the prospect of a gradually slowing economy is reassuring from the point of view of controlling inflation a number of problems remain, many of them familiar. In the US the budget deficit remains large and the savings rate inadequate.

As the chairman of the Joint Economic Committee of Congress, Mr Lee Hamilton, put it recently: "The economic policies of the 1980s have not prepared us for a brighter future. We need new policies for the 1990s." A good start would be made if Congressmen

began to pay more attention to the needs of the country, and less to lobbyists and the sectional interests of some of their electors.

Japan has made some progress in increasing domestic demand and opening its doors to imports. The current account surplus has fallen this year and the Japanese Government is introducing tax incentives to promote imports. None the less the surplus remains large and progress towards liberalizing trade and permitting foreigners to compete in Japan is unacceptably slow. The process of bringing trade back closer to balance, as the OECD's annual survey of Japan comments, needs to be continued if the risks associated with the world trade imbalance — for instance of a future stock market crash or foreign exchange crisis — are to be minimized.

While the Japanese surplus has fallen, West Germany's has risen sharply as a result of the worldwide capital re-equipment boom and this year has probably overtaken Japan's. Taken together the trade imbalances are not diminishing much. That is not a particularly promising backdrop for the concluding stages of the Uruguay Round of trade liberalization, whose successful conclusion this year should be treated as a matter of the highest priority.

Politically, therefore, trade imbalances matter; but economically, they may be less significant than used to be thought. Ironically, now that Mr Nigel Lawson is no longer Chancellor the international organizations which used to be sceptical of his view that current account imbalances could be sustainable over long periods are coming round to the same opinion. It depends, however, how the imbalances arise. The United States' sizeable fiscal deficit is clearly undesirable. So also are Japanese barriers to trade.

For Britain the new year outlook is gloomier than for most. The UK is both further advanced in the business cycle and experiencing a deeper swing. Growth picked up faster in Britain than in continental Europe or Japan during the second half of the decade and inflationary pressures emerged at an earlier stage and to a greater extent.

Monetary policy began to be tightened 18 months ago; now the prospect is for growth in the non-oil economy of less than 1 per cent. If there is any silver lining for Britain's policymakers, it is that they could hardly wish for a better international economic environment than a gradually slowing world economy coupled with still adequate growth.

GREAT LEAP BACKWARDS

The General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, Mr Jiang Zemin, broadcast his New Year's greeting to a quarter of the world's people on Sunday. His speech betrayed the nervousness of the Chinese leadership over the democratic revolutions sweeping Eastern Europe, for which a recent document circulated for study to Party cadres blames President Gorbachev.

Whatever the "twists and turns" affecting socialism in other countries, he said, China would "resolutely follow the road of building socialism with Chinese characteristics". China's leaders had learnt much in the 1980s about "how to fight bourgeois liberalization". In the decade to come, their "foremost task" would be "to ensure social stability".

Stability has been the watchword of the Old Guard which, last June, seized command and sent tanks into Tiananmen Square to crush China's largest pro-democracy movement since the 1949 revolution. China's "dinosaur generation" has exploited with consummate cynicism age-old popular fears of chaos in order to tighten its grip on power.

Led by President Yang Shangkun and his relatives, in alliance with the detested Prime Minister, Mr Li Peng, it has concentrated on reinstating the supremacy of the Party and the old ideological verities. The trend is back to the rigidities of state planning and thought control — setting China on a course which will undo much of the progress achieved by the flawed but fundamentally promising economic reforms of the past decade.

Dissent has been ruthlessly suppressed, in a witch-hunt on a scale not seen since the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s. Ideology has again been given pride of place, dictating economic policy. Students have been subjected to heavy indoctrination, or sent to the countryside as they were during the Cultural Revolution. In rural China, schoolchildren have been marched into factories to "learn from the workers". "Counter-revolutionary elements" have been purged from the Communist Party.

In further echoes of the Cultural Revolution, official speeches exhort the masses to more "revolutionary ardour" and warn that there is no place in China for those disloyal to Marxism. The one response to demands made by students and workers last summer — an anti-corruption drive under which 350,000 are said to have been "disciplined" and 2,500 arrested — has heightened the atmosphere of terror without meeting the real need identified by the demonstrators: the introduction of public accountability and open, meritocratic government.

Behind the bamboo curtain of repression, China enters 1990 at war with itself. Power struggles persist inside and outside the Politburo; between Peking hardliners, and leaders and businessmen in the more prosperous and flexible coastal provinces; and above all, between the generations. Wage and price subsidies have been increased in a bid to

dampen worker discontent; but a tightened programme of economic austerity is leading to job losses in the cities. In the countryside — according to official figures which are believed to understate the true position — more than a million rural non-farm enterprises have been forced to close.

That may help to explain why, unbelievably, protest flickers still — at least in the cities. Posters denouncing the leadership still, briefly, appear; and on the day that news of Mr Nicolae Ceausescu's execution reached China, the sound of the breaking of little bottles — a pun on the name of China's retired but still paramount leader, Mr Deng Xiaoping — was again heard in student quarters in Peking. Here and there in the city, firecrackers exploded.

More generally, the resurgence of doctrinaire socialism has produced paralysis; in the bureaucracy, where even the pettiest decisions are referred upwards to Mr Li Peng's office; in the factories, uncertain of their access to credits and raw materials; and in the countryside, where farmers are unwilling to invest money and labour in private plots which no longer look secure. Officially, Mr Deng's economic reforms are being pursued and "deepened"; in practice, they are being dismantled.

The dominant influences in economic policy are Mr Li and the 84-year-old Mr Chen Yun, whose open criticism of Mr Deng's reforms dates back to 1985. His "bird cage" theory which confines limited market activities within firm central control, penned in the aftermath of China's disastrous Great Leap Forward thirty years ago, are being recirculated for study.

November's fifth plenum of the Central Committee, dedicated to "the self-perfection of the socialist system", set out a 39-point agenda reasserting the dominant role of the Party in the economy and the importance of public ownership and state enterprises, and forbidding private involvement in trade and "important means of production". There is to be a return to unified state allocation of resources, in accordance with 1950s-style concepts of central planning. Not only are critical financial, industrial and pricing reforms to be postponed, but the plan envisages ending the two-tier pricing system by eliminating free-market prices altogether.

Since June, the West has combined repugnance for the leadership's brutal repression of peaceful protest with anxiety to hold China to its official statements of continued adherence to Mr Deng's "open door" policies. Peking has responded in its most xenophobic vein, blaming "hostile international forces", and notably the United States which has made most efforts to keep contacts alive, for China's internal troubles. Instability in the Middle Kingdom is in no one's interest. But before World Bank and other credits are resumed, as appears imminent, the West should examine whether money can promote stability in a country whose leaders have so conclusively forfeited the Mandate of Heaven.

Poverty on the City's doorstep

From the Warden and Chief Executive of Toynbee Hall
Sir, High above the City and Docklands the brightly-coloured lights twinkle on the developers' horizontal cranes, all vying with each other as symbols of entrepreneurial success and achievement, whereas here in the East End, down on the ground, the scene is starkly different.

The same horizontal symmetry prevails, but deriving from the prostrate forms of men and women in rags, huddled in doorways for warmth, reaching for scraps of meat from the street waste bins or pathetically scrambling for the last shards of clothing left over from the car boot sale on the waste ground.

For over a hundred years Toynbee Hall has tried to plug the gap which social provision does not fill, offering help to the community and beyond, together with employment training and further education, but the City largely ignores the problems on its doorstep. The plight of the homeless, many psychologically ill, is unheeded; likewise, the pitifully overcrowded tenements of the large Bengali population, who still courageously call Britain "the host community".

What kind of hosts are the large City developers? They continue to pull down fine old buildings, only to replace them with the garishly-coloured monstrosities of the late 80s, instead of ploughing some of their profits into investing in such projects as Toynbee Hall offers.

The young Bengalis resent the insolent contrast of the ostentatious wealth a few paces away from them, in which they are denied participation because of lack of opportunities. Members of the Royal Family and Government attempt to draw attention to the nascent revolution in the East End, but their pin-striped audience listens politely and then returns to money-making, which is the business of the City.

Is it too much to hope that the new decade might just jolt the conscience of the City, so that the Dickensian gap between the "haves" and "have nots" is perceptibly narrowed?
Yours faithfully,
ALAN LEE WILLIAMS,
Warden and Chief Executive,
Toynbee Hall,
28 Commercial Street, E1,
December 28.

Road congestion

From Police Sergeant Cameron Rose

Sir, An increase in daily working hours, along with a reduction in the number of days worked, has considerable potential for reducing congestion on the roads.

For many, an increase of the working day from eight to 10 hours could bring an additional 42 days per year where they would not have to make their way to work. However, my eight-hour day is enshrined in police regulations, and, whilst altering shift patterns within such legal constraints is by no means impossible, those constraints do rather stifle initiatives which could have far-reaching benefits.

Yours,
CAMERON ROSE
(Louthian and Borders Police),
8 Meadow Place,
Edinburgh 9.

From Mr Nicholas Elliott
Sir, Dr J. A. D. Ewart's excellent letter (December 27) about the frequent omission of numbers on buildings is timely. He should however, have added the omission of street names. These omissions cause innumerable rows and frustrations, waste of time, blockages of traffic, and dangers to life and limb.

Law enforcement to rectify them would surely be welcome by everyone — and not least by every police force in the country.
Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS ELLIOTT,
Flat 7,
50 Queens Gate, SW7,
December 27.

A piece of history

From Mr E. K. Timings

Sir, In reply to Mr Crawford's query (December 18) I have in my possession (in common, I imagine, with many others) a miniature wooden cask inscribed on a metal band, "From the bowspit of HMS Victory, Nelson's flagship, Trafalgar, 1805, purchased June 2, 1937".

I should be interested to know why these souvenirs were sold on that date.
Yours faithfully,
E. K. TIMINGS,
Flat 4R, Portman Mansions,
Chiltern Street, W1.

Airfield development

From the Director of the Airfields Environment Federation

Sir, I would like to offer an alternative perspective on Mr Scull's letter (December 21) and suggest some reasons why airfields like West Malling are being closed.

Aerodromes are not often great money-spinners. Unless there are very large numbers of aircraft movements, or other sources of income such as commercial rents, it is difficult to achieve a sensible return from the land.

Aerodromes are not popular neighbours, because of such things as smell, increased local road traffic, air pollution and, most commonly, aircraft noise. A bal-

People's choice for chiefs of state

From Mr B. D. J. Meehan

Sir, When, after a revolution, there is not a recognizable head of state, a country will remain in disorder and uncertainty until one such takes power. But there is no authority to appoint and impose a leader. It is a weakness of modern mass democracy that elections must be held, and conventional thought has it that political parties should be organized to present their appointed candidates to an otherwise passive people for their limited choice.

Someone or some group will need to seize power, but who can trust them? The fundamental idea of modern democracy is that no one can be trusted except with limited, dispersed and balanced powers. Perhaps government would be assumed by the apparatus of the defeated administration in a new guise — which would nullify the success of the recent rebellion.

It is in such circumstances that an hereditary prince is of supreme value. He knows which aspirants to office under him are relatively blameless. Without being chosen, he is acceptable to the people by accident of history. It is not the man who is chosen, but the process.

The prince's claim might be slight, or formerly denied or given up; he might or might not be wise and moderate, but at any rate he is known and recognized, and after the safe re-establishment of the state and by his authority, the calling of representative assemblies, constitutional re-arrangements can be made in an orderly way. A nation with some religious practice could accept a bishop as a sufficiently disinterested personage.

Poland has had the wisdom to sustain in office a chief of state, though not of popular choice and perhaps not loved, but never the less the apparent source of collective popular power. There exist readily available candidates for the offices of King of Bohemia, King of Hungary and King of Romania. It would be pleasant to hear that these had taken up office to give immediate stability and purpose to their leaderless nations.

They should not wait to be asked, for who would do the asking? When Napoleon returned from Elba his friends flocked to him and his opponents held back, uncertain. The delights of political parties, elected assemblies, and manoeuvrings for position could later be indulged in after a personified source of popular power had re-established the social framework for political sports.

It is for the successful constitutional monarchies of Europe — Britain, Spain, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Denmark, Sweden and Norway — to suggest, from their own example to the three unhappy leaderless countries, the easy and immediate resolution of their uncertainty. Rome and Constantinople might well add their voices.
Yours obedient servant,
B. D. J. MEEHAN,
200 Worpole Road,
Wimbledon, SW20,
December 30.

From Mr Philip F. Nind
Sir, The recent events in Eastern Europe have surely made 1989 the most significant year in world history for several centuries.

Romanian Church

From the Reverend Silviu Petre Pufulete

Sir, May I comment on your report (December 26) of the admittedly poor attendances at services held in this church over the Christmas period.

The London parish of the Romanian Orthodox Church has never been directly paid or subsidised by the regime but by the Romanian Patriarchate buying currency from the Government. Since May, 1987, however, the Patriarchate has been unable to purchase the currency and consequently all financial support ceased from that date.

Since then, I have offered my services to the Romanian con-

Forestalling need for mental care

From Dr Colin M. Parkes
Sir, The Government's plans for encouraging voluntary organisations to play a larger part in the community care of sufferers from disabling mental illness are timely and much needed. Is it too much to hope that voluntary organisations might also be helped to prevent mental disorders?

In recent years scientific evidence has accumulated which points to the important part which bereavements and other major losses can play in causing or triggering recurrence of a wide range of psychiatric problems. It also points to the success of counselling given in the right way to vulnerable individuals or families as a means of mitigating those damaging influences.

Numerous local services for the bereaved are doing their best to provide support to people who face the worst mental stresses that life has to offer, but they only succeed in reaching a small proportion of those who need their help. They are charitable bodies who rely on volunteers for most of the counselling they provide, and whose cost-effectiveness is enormous. Yet they are limited in what they can achieve by lack of funds.

This is surely one area where a combination of Government and private funding, conditional upon the organisations meeting appropriate standards, could ensure that properly selected, trained and supported volunteers, backed by a small number of dedicated professionals, could reduce the need for psychiatric services.

Yours sincerely,
C. MURRAY PARKES
(Chairman of Council),
Cruse — Bereavement Care,
126 Shen Road,
Richmond, Surrey,
December 22.

From Mr Richard A. Harris
Sir, The present euphoria in the West concerning recent political developments in Eastern Europe has led to the indiscriminate labelling of recently deposed communist leaders as "Stalinists", when careful examination of the facts, combined with a little historical research, would certainly suggest otherwise.

Dr Gustav Husak (Czechoslovakia) and Janos Kadar (Hungary) were both victims of the Stalinist purges in their respective countries in the early 1950s, and whilst the administrations over which they subsequently presided may have been authoritarian, it is important to keep an accurate historical perspective of their careers and their place in the events of post-war Eastern Europe.

It should not be forgotten, either, that not only Husak and Kadar but also many other leading figures, such as Erich Honecker and even Nicolae Ceausescu, were active opponents of the fascist regimes which prevailed in their respective countries during and, in some cases, before World War Two.

Europe has now been at peace for the last 44 years and history will surely show one day that the division of Europe after World War Two was not such a bad idea after all. Who would care to predict that the next 40 years will be as peaceful, now that the spectre of nationalism stalks the corridors of power in Bucharest, Prague, etc.?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD A. HARRIS,
1 Tetbury Gardens,
Nailsea, Bristol, Avon,
December 28.

gregation free of any charge and am working full-time elsewhere. In 1983 the community bought a parish house in Stockwell. All funds for this were raised exclusively by our parish and the house is owned by the Romanian Orthodox Church in the UK Charity Trust.

I should add that whilst I was receiving funds from Romania I approached the Free Romanian Organisation, asking for full support and promising to give up funding from Romania. But there was no positive answer.
Yours faithfully,
PR. PUFULETE PETRE,
The Romanian Orthodox Church in London,
St Dunstan's in the West,
184 Fleet Street, EC4.

incidentally, acquainted with Hebrew; a third is alive and well in Rabbinic literature and liturgy; a fourth is the spoken language of such Christian communities as that charmingly romanticized by Walker; and there are others.

Blurring the historical, geographical and dialectical distinctions between them is not only unscholarly; it is also no service to a better understanding of the current Near East and the origins of its problems.

Yours faithfully,
STEFAN C. REIF,
23 Parsonage Street, Cambridge,
December 27.

then welcome proposals for alternative use of airfield land.

The Airports Association's Coordinating Council understands that aircraft noise is the major constraint on airport development and that the industry must address the problem in its own interest. The business and sporting sector of aviation needs to be seen to accept this, too, and to support the development of an effective means for reducing the adverse impact on people and the environment. Otherwise, it cannot expect and will not get public support.

Yours faithfully,
MOYRA LOGAN, Director,
Airfields Environment Federation,
West Wing,
5-11 Lavington Street, SE1.

Two-tier pricing

From Mr Maxwell Laurie
Sir, Is not Mr Nicholas Ridley's decision (report, December 22) to permit two-tier retail pricing for cash and credit card purchases being seriously misinterpreted?

Current retail prices include a generous margin to recoup credit costs wherever credit purchase is available — with perhaps one exception. The exception is the book trade — at least, that is, for so long as the Net Book Agreement lasts.

With two-tier pricing retailers should offer a discount for cash purchases. Certainly there can be no ground for raising current prices by means of some spurious premium. One would hope that the Office of Fair Trading will take action against greedy retailers.
Faithfully yours,
MAXWELL LAURIE,
14 Harding Road,
Chesham,
Buckinghamshire,
December 24.

Growing pains

From Mr C. J. Frisby

Sir, I share Philip Howard's distaste (New Words for Old, December 19) for the way in which sleazy advertisers have rendered the word "adult" virtually unusable in its proper context.

The BBC must now be content among their number for its pretentious use of the unfortunate euphemism, although this particular institution, at least, appears not to escape the consequences: having warned viewers of the "adult" scenes in Dennis Potter's *Blackeyes*, the BBC followed its screening of last week's episode with a preview of the film *Legend*, described pitifully as a "grown-up" fairy tale.
Yours faithfully,
C. FRISBY,
461 Kingston Road, SW20.

From Mr J. G. Taylor
Sir, The Prince of Wales' defence of traditional English (report, December 20) is particularly apt at this time of year when one is receiving messages of good cheer from former comrades in the Armed Forces.

As a trooper in the Reconnaissance Squadron of the 1st Airborne Division I found myself walking on occasions "through the valley of the shadow of death" and found the words of the 23rd Psalm supportive and comforting when confronting the wrong end of a German MG 34.

I would not have got anything like the same comfort and support from the washed-out version of the New English Bible — nor, I suspect, would the Archbishop of Canterbury. The lustre of the words that enclose the faith need to reflect the magnificence of that faith.

Yours faithfully,
J. G. TAYLOR,
18 Davidson Terrace,
Claremont Road, E7.

Old money

From Mr John F. Martin

Sir, Mr McWilliam suggests (December 16) that it would make sense to call new pence cents. Oddly enough, here in California cents are commonly referred to as pence!

Yours truly,
JOHN F. MARTIN,
18 Ambleside Court,
Danville, Cal 94526, USA,
December 23.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.

School funding

From Dr J. C. Gibbings

Sir, I am proud to be a governor of a school that has gained unusually high academic performance. Yet our funding will be based on the identical formula for the most academically indifferent school in our area.

Under local management of schools a large administrative load will be transferred from local education authorities to schools. There is no provision for transfer-

ring either staff or funding. All the LEAs have pressed for from Government is extra money to run training programmes for governors and teachers.

How are governors to be businesslike in this respect when there is to be no start-up contingency funding or even long-term funding for pay increases?

Yours sincerely,
J. C. GIBBINGS,
7 Andrews Walk,
Heswall,
Wirral, Merseyside.

Storm debris

From Mr Bill Thomson

Sir, Surely it is time, more than two years on from the Great Storm, for the debris of branches and tree roots and trunks to be removed from the lake in St James's Park, to the east of the bridge. They are an unsightly reminder, which nobody wants, of an ugly event.

Yours truly,
W. B. THOMSON,
Albany Gallery,
1 Bury Street, St James's, SW1.

SOCIAL
NEWS

The State Apartments of Windsor Castle, Queen Mary's Dolls' House and the exhibition of drawings by Holbein, Leonardo da Vinci and other artists reopen tomorrow after being closed for the Christmas holiday.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Gilbert Murray, scholar, Sydney, New South Wales, 1866.

DEATHS: Fabian Bellingshausen, Polar explorer, Russia, 1852; Alexander William Kinglake, historian of the Crimean War, London, 1891; Sir George Riddell Aird, astronomer, 1836-81; Alnwick, Northumberland, 1892; Sir Edward Tyler, anthropologist, Wellington, Somerset, 1917; Eleanor Rathbone, social reformer, London, 1946.

At Ibrox Park football ground, Glasgow, 66 people were killed when a barrier collapsed, 1971.

Birthdays today

Professor Isaac Asimov, author, 70; Mr David Bailey, photographer, 52; Sir Richard Baylis, former physicist, 73; Sir Charles Rennie, former group research and technology director, ICI, 63; Mr Edmund de Rothschild, former chairman, N.M. Rothschild and Sons, 74; Air Marshal Sir John P. J. Pritchard, 77; Sir Keith Thomas, president, Corpus Christi College, Oxford, 57; Sir Michael Tippett, OM, CBE, composer, 85; Dame Rachel Watson, chairman, Consumers' Association, 67; the Right Rev Kenneth Woolcombe, former Bishop of Oxford, 66.

Marriages

Dr R.J. Pritchard and Lady Antonia Lodge
The marriage took place privately on Wednesday, December 20, between Dr R. John Pritchard, son of Mr and Mrs Robert J. Pritchard, of San Diego, California, and Lady Antonia Lodge, daughter of Dr David Lodge, deceased, of Geneva, Switzerland, and Lady Evelyn Lodge, deceased, of Kensington, London, W8.

Mr S.P. Dark and Ms P.M. Quijano
The marriage took place at Our Lady of Grace Church, Charlton, on Saturday, December 30, between Stephen Dark, of Royal Tunbridge Wells, and Patricia Quijano, of New York and Buenos Aires, in the company of family and friends.

Bridge

The English Bridge Union's year-end congress concluded at the Park Lane Hotel, London, with the *Harper's and Queen's* pairs championship, the men's pairs and the Swiss Teams final.

In the ladies' pairs the holders, former world champion, Sandra Landy, playing with Mrs M. Handley of London, successfully defended the title by a large margin.

RESULTS of Queen's Ladies' Pairs:
1. Mrs J. Landy (Lond.) & Mrs M. Handley (Lond.) 512-24; 2. Mrs W. J. Austwick (Aston) 504-2; Mrs J. Austwick (Aston) 504-2; 3. Mrs J. Austwick (Aston) 504-2; 4. Mrs J. Austwick (Aston) 504-2.

Men's Pairs:
1. Mr J. Austwick (Lond.) & Mr J. Austwick (Lond.) 512-24; 2. Mr J. Austwick (Lond.) 504-2; 3. Mr J. Austwick (Lond.) 504-2; 4. Mr J. Austwick (Lond.) 504-2.

Swiss Teams:
1. Mr J. Austwick (Lond.) & Mr J. Austwick (Lond.) 512-24; 2. Mr J. Austwick (Lond.) 504-2; 3. Mr J. Austwick (Lond.) 504-2; 4. Mr J. Austwick (Lond.) 504-2.

Flight 11: 1. Mr J. Austwick (Lond.) & Mr J. Austwick (Lond.) 512-24; 2. Mr J. Austwick (Lond.) 504-2; 3. Mr J. Austwick (Lond.) 504-2; 4. Mr J. Austwick (Lond.) 504-2.

Canford School
Air Marshal Sir John Curtis, KCB, KBE, FRAeS, RAF, has succeeded C. F. A. Baxter Esq as the Chairman of the Governors of Canford School.

SCIENCE REPORT

Gyroscope study that will put Newton and Einstein in a spin

A claim that an object becomes lighter when it is spinning appears in the latest issue of *Physical Review Letters* (vol 63, pp 2701-2704, 18th December 1989).

But this result conflicts with Newton's and Einstein's laws of gravity. Weight, which should not be confused with mass, is a measure of the gravitational force between two bodies (in the experiments, Earth and a gyroscope). In no theory of gravitation should this force change by virtue of an object's motion.

Nevertheless, Hideo Hayasaka and Sakae Takeuchi, of the faculty of engineering in Tohoku University, Japan, describe experiments in which increasing the spin rate of a gyroscope apparently reduces its weight.

As if this were not extraordinary enough, the researchers report that the effect is true only for gyroscopes spinning in one direction - clockwise as seen from above. Reverse the gyroscope's spin and the weight remains the same at all speeds.

The scientists have taken care to eliminate anything that could simulate the weight reduction, according to expert commentators. Indeed, the fact that the work was published in *Physical Review Letters* indicates that the journal's specialists (who have considered the experiment for more than a year) could

find no fault in the researchers' technique.

The experiment is deceptively simple. The spinning gyroscope is weighed in one pan of a sensitive pair of scales of the sort used in chemistry laboratories, with ordinary weights in the other pan. The gyroscope, its axis vertical, is contained in a vacuum to ensure that no aerodynamic disturbances confuse the issue. Driven by an electric motor supplied with current by very fine wires from outside the balance, the gyroscope can rotate at up to 13,000 revolutions a minute (rpm).

Three gyroscopes were tested; one with a mass of 140 grams and two with masses of 175 grams. Each was about 5 centimetres in diameter. As well as spinning them clockwise and anti-clockwise, Hayasaka and Takeuchi repeated the experiments with the gyroscopes upside down, with no effect on the results.

And the results were that for clockwise spin, the 175-gram rotor's weight decreased by 0.91 milligrams-weight for every thousand rpm increase in rotation rate. (This decrease was 0.59 milligrams-weight per thousand rpm for the less massive rotor). But there were no discernible changes in weight when the gyroscopes were rotated anti-clockwise.

Among the various possible causes of error, magnetic effects concerned the authors considerably, but they are satisfied that none were present. For one

thing, the measured changes in weight were the same regardless of whether the experiment was conducted inside or outside a room shielded against the Earth's natural magnetic field.

Neither did the results depend on whether the electric motor was turned on or off at the time the weight was measured. In any case, were magnetic effects in evidence, they would have shown up when the gyroscope was turned upside-down, yet they did not.

Indeed, it is the fact that the weight reduction persists unaltered even when the gyroscope is turned upside-down that most confounds the sceptics. Any hidden flaw in the experimental design could be expected to give a different result after such a change. Other problems, such as vibrations or effects due to the Earth's rotation, have also been ruled out.

"The experimental result," the researchers conclude, "cannot be explained by the usual theories." This is a clear invitation for theorists to re-examine the accepted notions of gravity. But theorists will be inclined to let experimenters and engineers take a closer look at technical difficulties in the new work before tampering with well-established laws of physics.

Roland Pease

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Jason in pursuit of the treasure



Four-year-old Jason had a more modest trophy in mind than his mythical namesake when he took part in the New Year's Day treasure trail at Leeds Castle, Kent, yesterday. The top prize sought by Jason Hutton - cross-Channel ferry tickets - would hardly have impressed the seeker of the golden fleece.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr F.H. Riley and the Hon Georgina Sanderson

The engagement is announced between Peter James Holland Riley, son of Major and Mrs J.C. Riley, of Chislehurst, Kent, and the Hon Frances Georgina Sanderson, younger daughter of Lord and Lady Sanderson, of Bowdon, Merseyside.

Mr W.F. Assheton and Miss E.E. Cobbold

The engagement is announced between William Francis, younger son of Mr and Mrs Nicholas M. Assheton, of Saint Andrew's Cottage, Donhead Saint Andrew, Shaftesbury, Dorset, and Harriet Emily, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter F. Cobbold, of Chestnut Cottage, Elvington Lodge, Welford, Northamptonshire.

Mr J.P.C. Birley and Miss A.J. Dillon-Robinson

The engagement is announced between Julian, son of Major and the late Mrs Peter Birley, of Frampton, Dorchester, Dorset, and Amanda, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jeremy Dillon-Robinson, of Widdington, Saffron Walden, Essex.

Mr C.W.D. Chappel and Miss F.J. Williams

The engagement is announced between Christopher, elder son of Mr and Mrs J.C. Green, of Quanae, Ely, and Coralie, second daughter of Mr and Mrs K.J.R. Johnston, of Hill Place, Linton, Maidstone.

Mr A.S. Cowan and Miss A.R. Holland

The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs M.A. Cowan, of Much Hadham, Hertfordshire, and Amanda, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs A.C.W. Holland, of Carlton, near Newmarket, Suffolk.

Mr K.W. Glover and Miss J.D. Young

The engagement is announced between Keith William, younger son of Mr and Mrs E.H. Glover, of Bollington, Cheshire, and Judith, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Young, of Earley, Reading.

Mr T.M.C. Green and Miss C.D. Johnston

The engagement is announced between Thomas, elder son of Mr and Mrs J.C. Green, of Quanae, Ely, and Coralie, second daughter of Mr and Mrs K.J.R. Johnston, of Hill Place, Linton, Maidstone.

M.G. Hoos and Miss G.M.P. Hutchison

The engagement is announced between Gerard, elder son of Mr and Mrs M. Hoos, of Paris, and Gilly, only daughter of Mr and Mrs R.N. Hutchison, of Bury, West Sussex.

Mr J.P. Walden and Miss C. Crossley

The engagement is announced between Julian Prier, younger son of Mr and Mrs B.S. Walden, of East Molesey, Surrey, and Carole, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Crossley, of Surbiton, Surrey.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Michael Aisbitt, Assistant Curate, Kirkcubrecht, diocese of York, to be Vicar, South Bank, Middlesbrough, same diocese.

The Rev David C. Bartle, Rector, Brantham and Sutton, diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, to be Diocesan Director of Ordinands/Lay Ministry Adviser, and Priest-in-charge, Roxwell, diocese of Chelmsford.

The Rev R. Paul Brophy, Succentor and Dean's Curate of the Cathedral Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary with St Ethelbert the King, Hereford, diocese of Hereford, to be Priest-in-charge, Cranham, All Saints, diocese of Chelmsford.

The Rev Peter Brown, Rector, St Andrew's Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, diocese of Minnesota, USA, to be Assistant Curate, Sprowston and Beeston St Andrew, diocese of Norwich.

The Rev Roy Dodd, Hon Assistant Curate, Woodham, All Saints, diocese of Guildford, to be Rector, Headley, with Box Hill St Mary the Virgin, same diocese.

Appointments



Viccount Tansy (above), Chairman of National Children's Home (NCH), to be president from January 1.

Mr Tom White to be Chief Executive of NCH from September 1990.

Legal
Mr John M. T. Rogers, QC, to be Leader of the Wales and Chester Circuit from January 1, in succession to Mr Gareth Williams, QC.

Mr Ray Stagh to be Junior of the Wales and Chester Circuit from January 1.

OBITUARIES

PEGGY THORPE-BATES

Repertory stalwart who became a TV star



As Hilda Rumpole

in Robert Atkins's production of *Henry V*.

After considerable grounding in repertory at such theatres as Harrogate and Bristol, she made a West End debut in that most trying of periods, the spring of 1940, as Mrs Dainty Diggett in *The Country Wife* at the Little Theatre.

More provincial experience followed before her exciting success as Mary Tudor, a subtle study in torment (in a chronicle by two American dramatists, *The Young Elizabeth*), which she created for the Repertory Players in December 1951; she acted it for over a year, from April 1952, at what was then the New Theatre. A critic said of this performance of a disappointed woman whose death freed Elizabeth from a sustained test of endurance: "All in all well while we have Peggy Thorpe-Bates to probe

the sad heart and warped mind of Mary."

In 1955 she was, powerfully, Clytemnestra in John Whiting's version of *André Obey's Sacrifice to the Wind* at the Arts and she had a year, 1956-7, with the BBC Drama Repertory Company. Her career thereafter covered a rich group of parts from Mary Tyrone in *O'Neill's Long Day's Journey Into Night* at Guildford (1962) to the fastidious emotional truth of the wife, Phyllis, in *Pinero's The Thunderbolt* (Arts, 1966), directed by Brian Oulton.

She played the Duchess of York in the Prospect production of *Richard II* at the 1969 Edinburgh Festival and afterwards at the Mermaid and Piccadilly Theatres.

During 1971 she toured with Brian Oulton in a comprehensive Pinero recital and in the next year appeared as Catherine in her husband's play, *Sydney Smith Coming Upside*, at the reopening of Harrogate Theatre. In 1973 she went to South Africa as Queen Mary in *Crown Marston*.

She had by then become a familiar television figure, having been seen in the serial *Sandwich* and as Hilda Rumpole in her portrayal of the wife in John Mortimer's courtroom comedies starring Leo McKern won her wide and lasting praise.

She is survived by her husband and by two children, Nicolas and Jennifer (married first to the theatre director, Leslie Laton, and secondly to the actor Richard Hampton).

PROFESSOR RICHARD RADO
Advances in theoretical mathematics

Professor Richard Rado, FRS, Emeritus Professor of Pure Mathematics in the University of Reading, who died on December 23 at the age of 83, made outstanding theoretical contributions to his subject over a period of more than 50 years.

Rado was particularly known for his work in combinatorics, the study of the different ways certain operations can be performed - a subject vastly developed over the last three decades. His name is often associated with Ramsey's Theory but Rado's paper, *Studien Zur Kombinatorik*, which appeared in 1933 is nowadays seen as a landmark and precursor of many subsequent developments.

Many of these developments were expounded in *Combinatorial Set Theory: Partition Relations for Cardinals* which Rado co-authored with three others and published in 1984.

The full range and influence of Rado's work is, however,

very much wider. For his contributions to pure mathematics also included set theory, classical analysis, number theory, algebra, the geometry of convex sets and measure theory. He displayed a versatility few have achieved this century.

Born in Berlin on April 26, 1906, he was educated at the Universities of Göttingen and Berlin, and was one of many academics who left Nazi Germany during the 1930s. He continued his research at Cambridge, was a lecturer there and at the University of Sheffield. In 1947 he was appointed Reader in Mathematics at King's College, London, before going in 1954 as Professor of Mathematics at Reading. He retired from the chair in 1971.

In 1978, some felt belatedly, Rado was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society "for his work in combinatorics, including abstract independence structures, transversal theory and extensions of

Ramsey's Theory (the partition calculus)". Perhaps the tribute which provided the most moving experience of his life, however, was his visit to the Free University of Berlin in October 1981 to lecture and receive an honorary doctorate.

The London Mathematical Society, on whose council he had served from 1948 to 1957 and of which he was successively secretary and vice-president, awarded him the senior Berwick Prize in 1972 for his work on partition relations.

Royalties received from *Studies in Mathematics* (ed. L. Mirsky, 1971), the *Estimate* presented to him on his 65th birthday, went to endow the Richard Rado Prize at Reading University.

His health suffered after a road accident in 1983 and so in that year he ended his chairmanship of the British Combinatorial Committee, which he had founded in 1977. He is survived by his wife, Luise, and one son.

ANTHONY MacGREGOR GRIER
A diplomatic "coup" in Worcestershire

Anthony MacGregor Grier, CMG, who has died at the age of 78, was a man who brought the diplomacy he had practised in the Colonial Service to the development of a leading Midlands overspill town.

After almost 30 years' service, including postings in Sierra Leone, North Borneo and India, Grier ended his career in Redditch, Worcestershire.

He was general manager of the Redditch Development Corporation from 1964 to 1976, helping turn a small light industrial town of fewer than 30,000 people into a modern new town with a population of more than 100,000.

The new housing estates, which brought people flooding in to the countryside from the nearby city of Birmingham,

were almost universally disliked initially by the indigenous population who accused Grier of regarding them as "the natives".

He sometimes irritated the local politicians by talking about when he was in Africa, and he was treated with a certain suspicion. Any impression he gave of being merely an old colonial, however, was unfair. He became recognized as a first-rate administrator who believed in doing what he thought was right.

The planning legacy he left behind in Redditch is still disliked by some, but it also has many admirers. He himself regarded it as one of his greatest achievements, and when the Development Corporation closed down after completing its work, he was the only senior administrator

to settle in the Worcestershire area.

Grier was born the eldest son of the Very Rev R.M. Grier on April 12, 1911, and educated at St Edward's School, Oxford, and Exeter College, Oxford. During the 1930s he served in the Royal West African Frontier Force and the Sierra Leone Regiment. He joined the Colonial Administrative Service in Sierra Leone in 1935 and remained there until 1943.

From 1947 until he left the service in 1964, he was a district officer in North Borneo, now Sarawak, Malaysia. During the last 15 years of this posting he was also chairman of the Sabah Electricity Board.

He leaves a widow, two sons and one daughter.

KURT BÖHME

Kurt Böhme, one of the most notable German basses of the past 50 years, has died at the age of 81.

Böhme was equally adept at portraying evil as he was at showing good nature on stage so that he could turn with ease from Hagen in Wagner's *Ring* cycle to Baron Ochs in Strauss' *Der Rosenkavalier*. By and large, as was the tradition with German singers of his generation, he stuck to his native repertory. His voice was voluminous, vibrant and dark in texture. He obviously handled it with care as his career lasted well over 40 years. As an actor, he used his imposing figure and his piercing eyes to create very definite personalities on stage.

Born on May 5, 1908, in Dresden, Böhme studied at the music conservatory in his native city and he made his debut there at the famous Dresden State Opera in 1929.

He remained as leading bass with the Dresden company for 20 years before moving to the Bavarian State Opera in Munich in 1950. He remained with that company for the next 25 years, and was still singing the role of Ochs successfully well into his sixties and smaller parts thereafter.

At Dresden he created the role of Vanuzzi in Strauss' *Die Schweigende Frau*. Later he was to switch to the central part in the same opera of Morosus, which he always sang to great acclaim. He also created roles in new works by Sutermeister and Egk, and in 1954 was the first Odysseus in Liebermann's *Penelope* at the Salzburg Festival.

He first appeared at Covent Garden when the Dresden State Opera visited this country in 1936. He did not return until 20 years later when he took the major bass roles in the *Ring* followed by Ochs, between 1956 and 1960. His last appearance in the house was as Morosus, with the Bavarian State Opera on its visit to Covent Garden in 1972.

Böhme first sang Ochs in 1942 at La Scala. It became central to his career, a well studied, never overdone portrayal of a rough-hewn farmer-aristocrat, sung with an enviable command of the text. He sang the part more than 500 times, and his 500th performance in Munich was treated as a special occasion. As Hunding, Fafner and Hagen in the *Ring*, his saturnine appearance and awful bellow suggested perfect casting. He recorded most of his major roles for Deutsche Grammophon.

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Autumn deadline to start restoration of Rotten Row as £60,000 is pledged

By John Young

The restoration of Rotten Row in Hyde Park, London, to its nineteenth century elegance should begin this year, the tercentenary of what has been described as the world's most famous urban bridleway. The project is part of an ambitious programme to revive the long tradition of riding in Hyde Park, which has been in decline for many years because of the loss of facilities. Longer term plans include a new bridleway between Hyde Park Corner and Marble Arch, which would enable riders once more to make a complete circuit of the park, and eventually a fully-equipped riding school with much needed stabling.

From as early as the eleventh century until very recently the open spaces of the park have been a centre of horsemanship. Once they were used for hunting, jousting and racing under the enthusiastic backing of the monarchy, notably Henry VIII and the Stuart kings,

during the Civil War the park, which Charles I had just opened to the public, was used to train the Royalist cavalry.

Rotten Row, still officially known as the King's Old Road, was constructed as a carriage drive in the winter of 1689-90 to provide access for William III from Westminster to his new residence at Nottingham House, now Kensington Palace. It was illuminated by lanterns hung from trees, which made it the first lamp-lit road in Britain.

During the eighteenth century it came into general use by riders, and in 1793 cast iron railings were erected as a safety measure on either side to separate them from pedestrians. In Victorian times it was a meeting point for fashionable society, regularly crowded by thousands of equestrians, including the Duke of Wellington who rode out most days from his home at Apsley House.

In 1941 the railings were removed to provide scrap metal for the war effort, and

the Row became semi-dilapidated. After the war riding was further restricted by the removal of the East Carriageway to make room for the widening of Park Lane into a dual carriageway.

The subsequent boom in property values led to the destruction of most of the stabling that had survived the Blitz. In 1988 the last stables on the south side of the park, owned by Miss Lilo Blum, in Grosvenor Crescent Mews, were claimed by the Grosvenor Estate as part of the redevelopment of the former St George's Hospital; the only remaining stables are two in Bathurst Mews on the north side, the owners of one of which, Mr Richard Briggs and his wife Basia, are leading the move to provide a new bridleway alongside Park Lane.

But now the historic link between royalty, horses and Hyde Park has been restored with the Queen as Patron of the Rotten Row Tercentenary Committee, which has already

raised £60,000, about a third of its initial target. Donors of £125 or more will be entitled to have their names embossed on the bollards supporting the new railings.

Mr Neil Mitchell, chairman of the committee, said that he hoped work could begin by this autumn at the latest, or possibly earlier if the rate of fund-raising accelerated. Another encouraging example of royal support was the opening last November by the Princess Royal of a new equestrian arena opposite Hyde Park Barracks, home of the Household Cavalry.

By happy coincidence 1990 is the Chinese Year of the Horse, and a calendar of events in and around London will begin with the opening of an exhibition at the Victoria Library on Thursday and culminate in a cavalcade of some 1,000 horses and carriages in the centre of the capital in September.

Donations may be sent to the Rotten Row 300 Appeal, 40 Emmanuel House, 18 Rochester Row, London SW1.

THE ARTS

Quips, clips and wishes

TELEVISION

William Holmes

So this was it: television in the Nineties. The evidence of the first few minutes of the decade was not altogether reassuring: three channels blaring pop songs and one deep in American football.

On BBC1, Kylie Minogue was receiving something called the Woman of the Decade award from Clive James, for exceptional services to keeping a straight face while miming "I Should Be So Lucky" for the zillionth time. Was she being named Woman of the 1990s? Would she go on miming until the 21st century? But, happily, the award seemed to be retrospective, and marked the zenith of her contribution to civilization.

And when did Clive James's contribution to civilization reach its zenith? Entombed with an antique at the base of a vast polystyrene pyramid, he seemed ready to embalm himself along with the Eighties — an understandable desire if you have only Jerry Hall for company. Clive's rise has been so much a symptom of television's navel-gazing in the Eighties that it was all too apt for him to recapitulate all those clips of Charles and Di and Andy and Fergie and Ronnie and Maggie while adding pungent new, or fairly new, one-liners.

The trouble is he's so good at it. Doubtless he would rather have been hosting a cultural analysis of the century so far by George Steiner, Simon Schama and John Dean, over on BBC2. He should be so lucky: television typesetting now demands that such weightiness could only be fronted by Michael Ignatieff. So Clive is left swimming around in the Jokes of the Clips of the Eighties, and is rivalled only by Cilla Black on ITV. She did the whole thing as a massive showbiz stage show with many of the same clips — "and here is Trevor MacDonald with highlights of the news" — except that they were slightly more gleeful about Michael Fish saying (on the BBC) that there was not going to be a hurricane.

Did New Year's Day bring any more hopeful signs for the decade to come? There was one glimmer in *Everyman* (BBC 2), which returned to the historic film by French journalists who were allowed inside the last of the political prisons in Russia, Perm 35. This ghastly hole used to house a couple of hundred prisoners including Shadrinsky; by the time the French were allowed in during July there were 37. One especially riveting sequence showed those held in isolation explaining to the French how their conditions had been marginally improved in the days before the visit.

Since then, eight prisoners have been released, and the new version of this film showed one of them, Vadim Aramburg, coming to terms both with freedom and with the reality of what had gone on inside the prison. He vowed to work for the release of all political prisoners in Russia. Perhaps, in the Nineties, he really will be so lucky.

TOMORROW

Jim Hiley on the work of playwright Howard Barker

Alan Borg, director-general of the Imperial War Museum, puts the case for admission charges at all public museums and galleries

Money is no object

The Director of the National Gallery, Neil MacGregor, argued eloquently in *The Times* last month against the idea of museum charges, but his case should not be allowed to go unchallenged. Those of us who have introduced charges at national museums do not accept the implication that we have committed an act of cultural barbarism, but see benefits to museums which charge.

Let me begin with the canard that the introduction of charges inevitably results in a drop of 40 per cent or more in visitors. This, through frequent repetition, is in danger of becoming accepted as fact. It is not, however, true. At the Imperial War Museum, where charges were introduced in July, we have experienced an average increase in visitors of 60 per cent. The anti-chargers will at once complain that this is an unfair example; much of the museum was closed in 1989, and it reopened in 1989 with extensive new galleries and fanfares of publicity. Both points are true, but if we compare our visitor figures with those of 1986, the last year we were fully open before building began, we still see an increase of 20 per cent in 1989. Equally, it is true that there has been much publicity, but it would be an insult to my staff to suggest that this was spontaneous. Good publicity always has to be worked for, but reward for effort is increasing visitor numbers.

The supposition that a fall in visitor numbers inevitably follows the introduction of charges is based upon two false assumptions. The first is that free national museums, not operating any form of ticket or turnstile entry, know what their visitor numbers are. Physical counting always inflates numbers: visitors exiting and returning are counted twice, staff go in and out, often there is more than one door, and (most significantly) directors and trustees like to see healthy figures. So the numbers put forward by the free museums are unreliable.

The second, and more important assumption, is that visitors who pay will accept the same standard of service as those who come in

free. Quite rightly, they will not, and a critical customer who expects value for money is the best possible stimulus to the improvement of museum standards. Even the staunchest non-charger would not, I think, argue that there is no room for improvement in what we do. A museum that charges must set — and keep — the highest standards, and it is hardly surprising that those institutions which have introduced charges without making changes have suffered a fall in visitors.

This leads to the problem of money. It is not for me to question how the National Gallery does its sums, but it is hard to believe that Mr MacGregor is right to say that the maximum net income they would receive from entrance charges is £500,000, when he claims well over three million visitors a year. Even if he lost more than a third of these and made only a gross income of £2 million, and it is difficult to see how 75 per cent of this could go in overheads. I can only record that the Imperial War Museum, with far fewer visitors than the National Gallery, will make a very substantially larger net profit from its entrance charges. Nor is it true that such revenues are at the expense of other profits, since we have also experienced a marked increase in the take per head in our shop since entrance charges were introduced.

Those opposed to charging argue that the economic effect is, to use Mr MacGregor's word, peripheral. I do not believe this is so; government funding has proved inadequate to our needs, and museums which ignore any obvious major source of new money should do so with their eyes open. Opponents of charging do their case no service by pushing specious economic arguments.

Much more persuasive is the principle that museums and art galleries should be free as a right. Yet this, too, seems to me to be flawed. What is so special about the visual arts that they should be treated differently from music or the theatre? No one realistically suggests that

Covent Garden or the National Theatre should be free: the idea that you must pay for Shakespeare but not for Gainsborough is illogical.

Foreign analogies are similarly dismissed. We do not think the French are philistines because they charge for entry to their museums, nor does anyone believe that the long queues outside the Louvre and the Musée d'Orsay consist entirely of tourists. In most European countries, museums are not free, and there is no obvious sign that their populations do not visit them, nor that they are culturally deprived.

There are two further arguments for free entry to be considered. First, it allows visitors to pop in for brief and frequent visits, benefiting from what will doubtless come to be called a culture-bite. However, the needs of such visitors (whose number, I suspect, is much exaggerated) are readily catered for by season tickets and friends' organizations.

More seriously, there are those who genuinely cannot afford to pay. It would be quite wrong to deprive the poor of access to museums and galleries, and here the solution is clearly to have one free day a week. At the Imperial War Museum, entry is free on Friday, and although this tends to be busier than other weekdays, our numbers are still far greater at weekends. Entry remains free for school parties.

It is not my intention here to argue that all national museums should charge for entry. This is and must remain a decision for the directors and trustees of each. However, that decision needs to be made on the basis of the facts, and in the light of the conditions in which we live. Those who oppose all forms of museum charge are in danger of becoming, like members of the Flat Earth Society, wholly out of touch with reality.

The report on museum charges by the House of Commons Select Committee on Education, Science and the Arts is published on January 10.



Alan Borg in the Imperial War Museum's Blitz Experience gallery

Something stirs on the Great White Way

THEATRE

Holly Hill

New York Round-up

The moribund American musical is showing flickers of recovery, and a few are even saying that *City of Angels* (Virginia Theatre) signals a renaissance. Michael Blakemore's staging, Robin Wagner's sets, Paul Gallo's lighting and Florence Klotz's costumes are universally acknowledged as brilliant. There are arguments over Larry Gelbart's book, Cy Coleman's music and David Zippel's lyrics.

Set in Hollywood in the 1940s, Gelbart's satirical book mingles the story of a young writer doing the screenplay of his detective novel with scenes from the movie as it is being made by an egomaniacal producer. Some felicitous lines aside, I found the send-up of Hollywood as trite as the production of it is masterly.

The movie scenes are in black and white, the "real life" story in color, and similar roles like the producer's and the detective's secretary and the novelist's wife and detective's girlfriend are cross-cast. The 37 scenes are ingeniously staged, and in some particularly clever sequences the movie characters move and speak backwards like film being re-wound, while the novelist changes his screenplay. Coleman's big-band score and Zippel's lyrics move the show along energetically.

After a rave review in the *New York Times*, the box-office lines stretch around the block for this musical, which had only a \$200,000 advance, and even those

of us who found it tedious can rejoice at the production's success.

Off-Broadway, the New York Shakespeare Festival has sponsored two ambitious though over-written musicals at the Public Theatre: William Finn's *Depression* (saga *Romance in Hard Times*, and *Up Against It*, based on the screenplay that Joe Orton wrote for the Beatles. Small scale but off to a good run is *Closer than Ever* (Cherry Lane Theatre), a revue of songs by David Shire and Richard Maltby, Jr. Each song makes a character or story of itself, engagingly performed by a cast in which Sally Mayes and Lynne Wintersteller are outstanding.

In the first months of the New York season, the one-man show displayed three distinct faces. Robert Morse, once Broadway's juvenile darling in such musicals as *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, is enjoying a personal triumph in *Tru* (Booth Theatre). Jap Fresson Allen's monodrama about Truman Capote. Cleavon Little did a virtuoso turn as an old Alabama sharecropper recollecting his life in *All God's Dangers*, and writer-performer Chazz Palminteri dazzled in *A Bronx Tale*, his story of growing up with two loving fathers — his

upright real dad and the neighbourhood gangland tsar — a Bronx variation on *Under Milkwood*, with Palminteri vividly playing all the parts.

Off-Broadway is alight with new plays by Athol Fugard, David Mamet and Terrence McNally. Fugard's *My Children! My Africa!* (Perry Street Theatre) tells in exciting scenes and overlong monologues the story of an ageing black South African teacher (John Kani), his prize student (the extraordinary Courtney B. Vance) and a white student (Lisa Fugard) united in a literary contest and then blasted apart by revolutionary activities.

I wish that Fugard could be convinced not to direct his own plays; he makes his rhetoric even more heavy-handed and restrains his actors from exploring the private emotions of their characters. *My Children! My Africa!* features two exceptionally bright and sensitive teenagers who must have sexual as well as intellectual and political urges, but not even a hint is seen in the production.

Mamet's one-act play, *Bobby Gould in Hell* (Mintz E. Newhouse Theatre at Lincoln Center), finds the Hollywood hotshot of *Speed-the-Plow*, who kept saying that he wanted to be a good man, stoutly maintaining his innocence to the Devil himself. The setting is a plushly furnished library with the terrors of Hell just outside mahogany doors, and there are magical tricks galore in Gregory Mosher's

gleeful production. Though the play amounts to Mamet doing finger exercises in a playful mood, there are some 15 minutes of blissfully hilarious writing when the Devil summons one of Bobby's rejected women as a witness. She drives the Devil so berserk with her feminist arguments that he promises to pardon all humanity if she will just leave, to which she answers that he's being manipulative.

McNally's *The Lisbon Traviata* (Promenade Theatre) is a wickedly funny and pathos-filled play about how people mess up their lives by channelling their emotions into activities they can observe. The activity dramatized is opera, but could as well be another performance art or a sport; the characters are homosexual but have clear heterosexual counterparts.

The riotous first act features Mendy, an opera queen (Nathan Lane, in a prima donna *assoluta* performance) and Stephen, the object of Mendy's unrequited love, listening to Callas and disingering dirt ("Isbaldi fans belong in a soccer stadium") as Mendy grows hysterical about finding the pirated recording of Callas's *Lisbon Traviata*; the second act shows Stephen (played with remarkable subtlety by Anthony Head) escaping into music as his long-time lover is leaving him for a younger man. This Manhattan Theatre Club production, directed by John Tillingier, is smashing.

THE LIAR

CORNEILLE'S COMEDY ADAPTED BY RANJIT BOLT

"Brilliantly funny"

The Times

"Jonathan Miller's production... a thorough delight"

Daily Telegraph

"A spirit-soothing antidote to the kitsch and mush that surrounds us at Yule"

Guardian

"Alex Jennings... a delicious performance fully matched by Desmond Barrit... they work perfectly as a team"

Sunday Telegraph

"Alex Jennings' performance surely confirms him as the greatest actor of his generation"

City Limits

"Catch it. It's a gem"

Mail on Sunday

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A funny thing happened to me on the way to the BBC

From undergraduate humorist, alongside

John Cleese and Bill Oddie, to the top job

in BBC Radio, in less

than 20 years, David

Hatch's progress

from comic to

controller has not

been without its

rough patches, as

he here explains to

Sheridan Morley

ality presenters from the old announcer-type shows.

"You have to maintain a balance between creating radio stars and borrowing others from television or journalism. One day I looked at the radio schedules and saw that we hadn't a single female presenter, despite the fact that there was a huge housewife audience; happily that was when Gloria Hunniford came into my office, and within three months we'd given her a regular series".

Moving in 1983 from Radio 2 to Radio 4, again as Controller, Hatch found an altogether different world: "The public has a great affection for Radio 4, far greater than their affection for BBC 1 or 2; if you try to make any even very minor changes in scheduling or programming, they react as if you have gone into their living-rooms and shifted all the furniture around."

"But there was also a lot of distillation around Radio 4 at the beginning of the 1980s; people working there had the impression



David Hatch: he abandoned theology for the West End and Broadway

that they were being constantly drained of money for someone to put it in a cab and send it up to the Television Centre where it got wasted.

"That all changed in the mid-1980s, as people began to get a little bored with television; radio, like opera, started to come back into its own with groups of fervent and noisy defendants. We recovered our confidence about then, members of the board of management suddenly seemed to care about radio again, and it became much easier to make progress. My big mistake too was to try to change too much too fast."

"I moved in to revise the morning schedules, started a *Rollercoaster* show which brought me tremendous abuse — I'm sure they'll find that word engraved on my heart when I die. The audience really hated having their mornings changed. On television you could move *Panorama* from Monday to Wednesday without anyone turning a hair, but you move *Allstar Cooke's Letter From America* by

so much as five minutes, and all hell breaks loose."

Surviving the *Rollercoaster* crash, Hatch did begin to persuade his audiences that change was not only possible but inevitable. "If you are ever to get anything new on the air, then something old has to go, and people always forget that the programmes they are so desperate to keep were themselves once guilty of displacing others."

From Radio 4, Hatch became Director of Programmes in 1986: "There had been one of those occasional BBC bloodbaths, and nobody seemed available for the job so they threw me into it and I've been there ever since. There is something satisfying about being a trouble-shooter for all four networks. Especially as we are now moving into a decade of considerable change in which the challenges are as much financial and political as artistic."

"We now face competition from a national network of commercial radio stations for the first time, but

the morale in Broadcasting House is, I think, a lot better than it was 15 years ago. We'd been sitting in the wings getting pushed offstage for far too long, and we're now back in the spotlight for the first time. People now come to us from television to make programmes, because they know we have high production standards. That is also, of course, why we are forever getting raided. Light Entertainment has just supplied *Spitting Image* with something like its fifth producer in as many years."

"We can never match television money, but we can make sure that opportunities arise much faster: in radio you can be producing within three months instead of three years. We now lose two radio frequencies to the new commercial stations — which (though they haven't yet been specified) we expect to be Radio 1 and 3 medium wave. As against that, we're building an FM chain for Radio 1 which can already reach three-quarters of the audience; and I've never understood why people listen to Radio 3 on medium wave."

"People are undoubtedly much more alert now to the quality of sound reception. We still have some work to do there — first in getting push-button radios out of cars and into homes, second in tidying up all the splitting of frequencies so that Radio 3 doesn't suddenly give you cricket or Radio 4 Schools."

"At the moment a sports fan has to remember that if it's cricket it's on Radio 3, if it's tennis it's on 2, if it's Saturday morning, sport is on 4, but if you want it in the afternoon it's on 2. This year, Radio 5 will collect together all the bits displaced from the lost frequencies: sport, Open University, schools and continuing education."

"And what of Hatch himself, in the 1990s? "There are some very good people below me who can't be held down forever by my clinging on to the desk, so when the moment comes for me to go, I just hope I'll be the first to know."

FASHION by Liz Smith

High chic in sheep's clothing



Above: Brown sheepskin jacket, £365, Nursey and Son, Upper Oland Street, Bungay, Suffolk; Simpson, Piccadilly, W1; Parr & Co, 55-58 Belgrave Gate, Leicester; Williams & Griffin, High Street, Colchester. Sheepskin gauntlets, £25, Ally Capellino, 95 Wardour Street, W1; Harrods, SW1; Doyle, 11 Church Street, Market Harborough; Wharfedale, 60 Oxford Street, Southampton. Rust Harris tweed belted jacket, £125, Jigsaw, 21 Long Acre, WC2; 65 Kensington High Street, W8; 151 Granger Street, Newcastle; 12 Donegal Square, Belfast and branches. Rust felt hat with fake fur trim, £32, Susanna Wood at Ally Capellino, address above. Tan leather bag, from £88, Jaeger, 204 Regent Street, W1 and branches.

Right: Hooded duffle coat in natural sheepskin, £814, Nicole Farhi, 25-26 St Christophers Place, W1; 193 Sloane Street, SW1; 6 Market Street, Manchester and branches. Sand lambswool crew neck sweater, £37.50, Scotch House. Cream cotton polo neck sweater, £32, cream wool leggings, £40, John Smedley at S Fisher, Burlington Arcade, W1; Seltridges, W1; Jenners, Edinburgh.

Hair by Joe Carney for Daniel Galvin, 42-44 George Street, W1.
Make up by Charlie Duffy
Photographs by CLIVE ARROWSMITH

Modern tanning techniques helped sheepskin shed its unyielding image, to become soft, supple — and green

Concorde pilots sit on it. Babies smile contentedly when being photographed lying on it. Rolls-Royce owners sink their feet into it. The Household Cavalry rides on it. The Duchess of York wears it, of course, just like all pioneering aviators. "It" is sheepskin, the "wool-on" or fleece-backed suede or leather which, with its image revamped by top international designers and its suppleness assured by tanning technology, is enjoying a fashion revival.

Sheepskin is obviously a by-product of the lamb-chop business, but enthusiasts for the luxurious comfort and rugged good looks of fleecy sheepskin can be reassured. Nobody kills a sheep today to make a flying jacket or a pair of moccasin slippers.

Although it takes six skins to make a three-quarter-length coat, the manufacture of sheepskin clothing uses only three per cent of the natural wastage fleece of the country's 15 million sheep. Safe chemicals are used to pickle, tan, scour and soften skins to the suppleness demanded by designers, so the sheepskin seems to suit the Green lifestyle.

Few will need an excuse to wear Nicole Farhi's fashionable sheepskin duffle (shown above), or Next's roomy sheepskin jacket (priced £299) or Mulberry's full-length (£775) dark brown or tan sheepskin coat. Nothing other than an instinct for quality and a taste for luxury, plus a spare £1,390, is needed to prompt some to splurge on Kenzo's three-quarter length shocking pink sheepskin jacket or Ralph Lauren's full-length classic coat in natural tan and cream shearing (the American name for sheepskin), priced £1,200. Like all sheepskin coats of quality, any one of them is a luxury to be enjoyed for a lifetime.

It is this enduring quality — as well as the over-enduring rigidity of cut — that recently put the British sheepskin business into a decline and galvanized David Patten of the Taunton-based Rural Development Commission into action. In Somerset, tra-

ditionally the centre of the country's leather production, 3,000 people were employed in the sheepskin business just over a decade ago. Today the number is nearer 300. In 1988 Patten rallied tanners and manufacturers of sheepskin coats, mitts, baby rugs — even paint rollers — to form the Real Sheepskin Association to promote what was rapidly becoming an endangered craft.

Today, Andrew Daske of the Fenland group of sheepskin tanners and manufacturers, and chairman of the Real Sheepskin Association, is bullish about the future of British sheepskin. "Sheepskin is back in fashion. Smooth nappa finishes have been developed. Looser-structured coats, blousons and duffles are being designed," he says. Tanns of Taunton, part of the Fenland group, supplies sheepskin aviator jackets (that sell at £199) to the River Island chain. It also supplies coats and jackets, priced from £298 to £359 for a three-quarter length classic, to House of Fraser stores, John Lewis, Fenwick and Lakeland, the specialist sheepskin chain.

Michael Saul of Mulberry Company (a Mulberry sheepskin jacket costs from £575), is the association's energetic president. "British sheepskin tanners became too complacent," he says. "They were not adventurous enough, sticking to rigid bullet-proof sheepskin coats. Advances in enzyme technology have reduced the weight of tanned sheepskin by almost half in the past decade."

Any discussion about British sheepskin, however, begins and ends in Bungay, the Suffolk market town in the Waveney valley south of Norwich, where Nursey and Son (currently Burton Nursey and his son Tim) celebrates its bicentenary this year. In 1790 the Nursey family set up in business as tanners and leather workers, making sheepskin jerkins and hedging gloves, but hung up their tanners' leather aprons in the 1930s to concentrate on the manufacture of the sheepskin, suede and leather jackets, moccasins, hats and gloves which they have perfected over the decades.

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HOT LINES

Spurning of Atlanta

Y on read the book. You have seen the movie. But do you really want to smell the scent? *Gone with the Wind*, The Fragrance made its debut in Macy's in Atlanta just before Christmas in celebration of the film's 50th anniversary.

A whiff of magnolia in an eau de parfum, priced from \$25 to \$65 (£15.50 to £40.30), is on sale with *Miss Scarlett* in additional refillable purse spray. Rhett and Scarlett, in celebrated clench, star on the packaging. Five million scented scratch-and-sniff strips are being handed out to American moviegoers when they buy their tickets.

The fragrance is not as big a hit as the film, however. "I don't think it is a fragrance that will be around for long," an assistant in Macy's perfumery department in Atlanta says.

Frankly, my dear, the shoppers don't give a damn.

Archivists Michael Moss and Alison Tarrant have dug up charming photographs and meticulous background research for *A Legend of Retailing — House of Fraser* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson £18), about the growth of a small family drapery business into a store empire including Harrods, Jollies of Bath and Frasers of Glasgow. But it is a rather staid history of the 62 stores now in the Payed family's grasp.

INFORMATION SERVICE

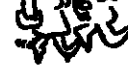
Honey-tongued acknowledgement

As an alias for a man trying not to draw attention to himself "Sebastian Melmoth" must rank low for good sense. But it was the name Oscar Wilde chose for his last years of exile on release from Reading Gaol. In Donald Sinden's one-man show, *Divisions and Delights*, opening tonight in Brighton before transferring to the Playhouse in London, the name is changed to Melmoth, perhaps in acknowledgement that Wilde was honey-tongued. Sinden too, for that matter. The theatrical pretext is an imagined lecture given in Paris by Wilde in the last year of his life in the hope of repeating the triumph of his American tour 20 years before. An alert American viewer noted down his manner of speaking — "The old Gothic cathedral is firm and moat beautiful now than it was years ago" — and Sinden has the further advantage of having met, when still in his teens, Wilde's "rose-tipped youth", the aged and still had tempered Lord Alfred Douglas, living out his last years in Brighton. Sinden was present at Douglas's burial in 1945, just as Douglas had been one of the few at Wilde's funeral 45 years before. *Divisions and Delights*, Theatre Royal, Brighton (0773 28488) opens tonight 7.45pm, £4-12.



Donald Sinden in *Divisions and Delights*, Theatre Royal, Brighton

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Review section on Saturday by a preview of the week ahead. Items should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN



BOOKING KEY

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THEATRE

★ ALLO! ALLO! Last chance to see the Jean Marais' favourite show on stage. Pledge your expectations low. Until Jan 27.

★ PELLICIA Theatre, Argyle St, London W1 (01-437 7207). Tube: Oxford Circus. Mon-Fri 8pm, Sat 8.30pm, Sun 7.30pm. 2.45pm and Sat 5.30pm, £2.75-£15.50.

★ ASPECTS OF LOVE Lloyd Webber musical based on a David Garnett novella: many out patches. Prince of Wales Theatre, Coventry St, (01-638 5972). Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8pm, £15-25.

★ BARNABY AND THE OLD BOYS At Gascoigne, Keith Beeler, Jennifer Hilary in *Gascoigne's* interesting new adaptation of the English class system; Angela Richards as their mother. Albany Theatre, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (01-667 1115). Tube: Leicester Square. Mon-Sat 7.45-10pm, Sun 2.30-5pm, Fri and Sat 4pm, £5.95-£18.50.

★ FUNNY PECULIAR Robin Kermode, Hilary Crosson, Jill Johnson in *Gascoigne's* revival of Mike St. Comedy about how to ginger up a state marriage. Riverside Theatre, Purdie Dock, EC4 (01-295 5588). Mon-Thurs 8pm, Fri and Sat 9pm. Mats Fri and Sat 3.30pm, £5.95-£13.50.

★ HEDDA GABLER Elizabeth Quilley, Richard O'Connell in new adaptation of Ibsen's screw-driving marital drama. Kings Head Theatre, 115 Upper St, N1 (01-226 1910). Tube: Highbury and Islington. Preview from tomorrow, 7.45-10pm. Open Jan 10, 7.15-9.30pm, then Tue-Sat 7.45-10pm, mats Sat 3.30-5.45pm and Sun 3-5.15pm. Tues, Wed and mats 27, Thurs Fri and Sat 28, Thurs 8.45pm (Jan 10 8.15pm, £2).

★ JEFFREY BERNARD IS UNWELL Peter O'Toole gives his best and funniest performance in years as the well-known man-about-town looked into his favourite pub over his shoulder and meeting friends from his past. Apollo Theatre, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (01-437 2500). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Fri 8.30pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 7.30pm, £5-25.

★ THE LADY OF THE TIGER Great family show for Christmas: revival of the Orange Tree's favourite musical based on the old dilemma: smashing tunes. Change Tree Theatre, New Rd, Richmond (01-840 3833). Tube: Richmond. Weekday mats 3pm, Jan 4, and 5.30pm, Sat 3pm, Sun 2.30pm, £3.50-£5.

★ THE LIAR Jonathan Miller's spirited production of the spiky Comedienne comedy. Alex Jennings marries as the shyest hero and Desmond Barrie as his inebriated servant. Old Vic Theatre, Waterloo Road, SE1 (01-828 7816). Tube: Waterloo. Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 7.45pm, mats Wed 2.30pm and Sat 4pm, £7-25.

★ A LIFE IN THE THEATRE Denholm Elliott and Samuel West in *Gascoigne's* study of an old actor and his ambitious junior: the players struggle to play the Second Theatre, Aldwych, WC2 (01-836 2800). Tube: Covent Garden. Tues 8pm, Mats Thurs, Sat and Sun 4.30pm, £9-25.

★ LITTLE AND LOVAGE Carol Shawley and Helen Ryan in Peter Shaffer's long-running comedy in which two unlikely partners wage eccentric war against the modern world. Globe Theatre, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (01-437 3857). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat 7.45-10pm, mats Sat 5.30pm, £7.50-£15.

★ LONDON ASSURANCE Paul Eddington plays the ageing rake and Angela Thorne the unforgivingly named Lady Gay Spanker in Sam Mendes's stylish production from the Old Vic Theatre, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (01-830 9832). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat 8-10.10pm, mats Thurs 5.45-8.10pm and Sat 4-6.10pm, £9-25.

★ OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD Triple award-winning play by Timberlake Wertenbaker, set in New South Wales 200 years ago where a batch of convicts are ordered to become actors. Garrick Theatre, Charing Cross Rd, EC2 (01-575 0107). Tube: Leicester Sq. Mon-Thurs 8-10.30pm, Fri and Sat 8.15-10.35pm, mats Fri and Sat 5.30-7.20pm, £7.50-£15.

★ PRIME COMMANDING performance by Sheila Hancock as a rude, snobbish, authoritarian college principal with principles you have to admire. Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (01-437 3858). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Thurs 8-10.30pm, Fri and Sat 8.15-10.35pm, mats Fri and Sat 5.30-7.20pm, £7.50-£15.

★ RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET Cuckoo hit draws *The Tempest*, all rock 'n' roll into a crazy show. Cambridge Theatre, Seven Dials, WC2 (01-579 5299). Tube: Leicester Square. Tonight, 8pm, £7.50-£15.50.

★ A SLICE OF SATURDAY NIGHT Transfer of hit show from the King's Head that catches the sound and feeling of a night out in 1964: clever songs by the Heather Brothers. 4400 Theatre, 41 Newport St, WC2 (01-836 2132). Tube: Leicester Square. Mon-Thurs 8pm, Fri and Sat 8pm and 8.45pm, £7.50-£17.50.

★ LONG RUNNERS Cate New London Theatre (01-405 0072). • *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*: Ambassador Theatre (01-836 6111). • *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*: Ambassador Theatre (01-836 6111). • *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*: Ambassador Theatre (01-836 6111).

★ THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Her Majesty's Theatre (01-838 2244). • *Run For Your Wife*: Whitehall Theatre (01-867 1119). • *Shogun Express*: Apollo Victoria (01-828 8855).

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Case of mistaken identity

Peter Waymark

Brainwashed by nearly five years of *EastEnders*, it can be difficult to separate the reality of the London East End from the soap opera fiction. The Lane (BBC2, 9.30pm), a six-part series on Brick Lane in Bethnal Green, should provide a useful corrective. Not that documentary is necessarily more real than dramatic invention. Selection brings its own distortions. How typical is the affluence of the Burns family, subject of tonight's episode? Tony's office removal business enables him to drive a Jaguar and dine out with his wife at the Venus Steak House. Uncle Charlie runs a Mercedes, apparently on the proceeds of his stall at the Sunday flea market. Tony's son has done well in the City and left the East End to live in the suburbs. Unconsciously, the programme seems to be endorsing the virtues of Thatcherite free enterprise. At the same time the Burns sum up much of the traditional East End, of close-knit family life with its strong women, a social world based on the pub and a wary, self-mocking humour. Tony and his dad are the leading lights in the Repton Boxing Club, established by Repton public school as an act of Victorian charity. Products of the club



The Burns family: an intimate portrait of life in the East End (BBC2, 9.30pm)

include three world champions and the Kray twins. Tony Burns counts the Krays as his friends and regularly visits them in prison. He half excuses their violence by saying that it was only directed against their own kind. The connection with Repton School remains, but they are different worlds. Repton's offer of two places to East End boys seems to founder on a cultural divide that is too great to be bridged.

South Africa's Death Factory (ITV, 10.35pm) is a sombre report from the First Tuesday team on the operation of the death penalty under apartheid. Throughout the 1980s South Africa was hanging men and women at the rate of one every three days and 97 per cent of the victims were black. The film includes an interview with the former chief executioner, follows one man's family during the 48 hours before his hanging and examines the law of common purpose which enables people to be convicted of murder even if they are not there when the killing takes place. We hear also from a dissident, a Supreme Court judge who does not believe in the death penalty and refuses to send anyone to the gallows.

BBC

6.00 *Capital*
6.30 *BBC Breakfast News* presented by Nicholas Witchell and Kirsty Wark. Includes news headlines every 15 minutes; financial news, regional news and weather; travel bulletins, sport and a review of the morning newspapers by Paul Collins. 6.55 Regional news and weather.

8.00 *News and weather* followed by *Children's BBC*, presented by Lisa Jones and Andi Peters, beginning with *Jimbo and the Jet Set* (r) 8.10 *Charlie Brown and Snoopy Show* (r) 8.30 *Fame and Fortune*. Episode four of the six-part Australian drama serial starring Kyle Minoque.

10.00 *News and weather* followed by *Why Don't You...?* Entertaining ideas for children at a loose end. 10.30 *Playdays* (r) 10.55 *Five to Seven* with John Cuthbertson with a reading.

11.00 *News and weather* followed by *Head of the Class*. American comedy series starring Howard Hesseman as the teacher of a class of bright but bickering young people. 11.35 *Peddie's People*. The second half of the canoeing championships from Llangollen, north Wales.

12.00 *News and weather* followed by *MacGyver*. American super agent MacGyver is chosen to track down the whereabouts of an international spy. During his investigations he is tricked into betraying an ex-convict.

1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Philip Hargrove. Following the 1.30 *News* with a narrow escape at the coffee shop, Sharon has some serious explaining to do. (Coefax)

1.30 *Carry on*. John Curry gives young viewers a few simple steps to practice on the ice.

2.15 *Peter the Great*. Episode one of a four-part, Emmy-winning drama about the life and times of the Russian tsar. Starring Vanessa Redgrave, Laurence Olivier and Omar Sharif (r). (Coefax)

3.50 *Dooby Duck's Disco* (r) 3.55 *Green Glens* 4.10 *Bananaman* (r) 4.15 *Jackass*. Victoria Wood with part one of Alan Ayub's *Ten in a Bed* (r) 4.25 *New York Beat* Show 4.35 *Knowhow*. The first of a new series in which Mark Sallor and Beverley Wood look at how things work.

5.00 *News and weather* 5.10 *Grange Hill*. Episode one of a new series about the pupils and staff of the 13-year-old school. (Coefax)

5.35 *Neighbours* (r) (Coefax) 6.00 *Six O'Clock News* with Anna Ford and Chris Lowe. Weather.

6.30 *Newsroom South East* 7.00 *Holiday 90*. A new series begins with Anne Gregg covering in the Caribbean on the *Overnight* of the *Scots*; Kathy Taylor travels by coach from Bradford to a camp site at Cap d'Agde in the south east of France and Desmond Balmer, travel editor of *The Observer*, and his family enrol for an educational week at Marlborough College. (Coefax)

7.30 *EastEnders*. Arthur's plan to keep Pauline occupied with visitors doesn't impress her and Sharon decides Michael needs cheering up with a night on the town. (Coefax)

8.00 *Porgy and Bess*. The *Harder They Fall*. Classic old leg comedy starring Ronnie Barker, Brian Wilde, Fulton Mackay and Richard Beckinsale (r). (Coefax)

8.30 *A Question of Sport*. Joining the team captain Ian Botham and Bill Beaumont are Jack Russell, Jane Croft, Steve Backley and Dave Beasant. David Coleman is the quizmaster. (Coefax)

9.00 *News O'Clock* with Marilyn Lewis. Regional news and weather.

9.30 *Film: The Wild Geese* (1962) starring Richard Burton, Roger Moore and Richard Harris. Action adventure about a wealthy merchant banker who hires three mercenaries to rescue the imprisoned leader of a Central African state deposed by a military coup, and then tries to double-cross them. Directed by Andrew V. McLaglen. (Coefax)

11.40 *Check Your Life at the Roxy*. The rock 'n' roll guitarist recorded in concert at the Roxy in Los Angeles.

12.40am *Weather*

ITV

6.00 *TV-am* begins with *News* and *Good Morning Britain* presented by Richard Keys and from 7.00, by Mike Morris and Anna Ford. 6.50 *Wacday* with Tim Wille.

9.25 *The Adventures of Taddy Razzle* (r) 9.50 *Thames News* and weather. 10.00 *The Magic Mirror* with Moira Stuart and Roy Ackerman. 10.35 *News at Ten* 10.40 *News*.

10.45 *Film: Knight Rider* (1982) starring David Hasselhoff, Edward Mulhare and Richard Basehart. A made-for-television adventure about Michael Long, a Vietnam veteran and undercover cop who is seriously injured in a car crash. Following his recovery he is given plastic surgery, a new identity and a talking car to aid him in his fight for justice. Directed by Dan Heller. Home and Away. Stacey reveals her emotional plans to turn Summer Bay into a major resort.

1.00 *News at One* with John Suchet. Weather. 1.30 *Thames News* and weather. 1.35 *Santa Barbara*. A naked man's body is washed up on the Santa Barbara shore.

2.00 *Home*. Episode two of the four-part drama about a 19th-century island. Harold is accused of murder and only Norman and Marnie believe that he is innocent. Starring Lisa Harrow and Luc Merenda. 3.35 *Thames News* and weather. 3.50 *The Young Doctors*. Liz's evening out with Ben doesn't turn out as expected.

4.00 *Frizzle Rock*. The first in a new series of puppet adventures. 4.15 *Burns Bums* (r) 4.25 *News* and weather. 4.30 *Thames News* and weather. 4.40 *Count Duckula*. Vegetarian vampire Count Duckula travels to London where, surprisingly enough, he meets himself.

5.10 *Blockbusters*. General knowledge quiz game presented by Bob Henson. 5.40 *News with Sue Carpenter*.

6.00 *Home and Away* (r) 6.25 *Thames News* and weather followed by *Coronation Street*. 7.00 *Emmerdale*. There's a trouble in store for Pete Whinney when his wife hints that she knows about his affair with Rachel Hughes.

7.30 *Just for Laughs*. A collection of clips from some of the best British comedy films (r).

8.00 *The Bill*. By the Skin of Our Teeth. Sun Hill's officers aren't sure that PC Able has what it takes to complete his probationary period, and their doubts are confirmed when Able disobeys instructions and enters a house into which a disturbed man has locked himself. (Coefax)

8.30 *Shelley*. Shelley has to face the depressing fact that he's not as young as he used to be when he realises that certain parts of his body can no longer be relied upon to function efficiently. (Coefax)

9.00 *TV Times Top 10 Awards*. Des O'Connor is the host of this year's awards ceremony. Find out who readers of the TV Times voted for in categories including Favourite Children's Personality, Favourite Comedy Performer and Favourite Group or Singer. Plus a special award from Richard Barber, editor of *TV Times*, for the year's Outstanding Television Contribution.

10.00 *News at Ten* with Alastair Burnet and Trevor McDonald. Includes Fiona Armstrong with a report from Uganda on young orphans whose parents have died of AIDS.

10.35 *First Tuesday*. South Africa's Death Factory. (See Choice)

11.35 *Film: For a Few Dollars More* (1965) starring Clint Eastwood and Lee Van Cleef. A pair of bounty hunters meet in the Texas town of El Paso and, with a little reluctance on both sides, agree to join forces in the hunt for a crazed killer.

Directed by Sergio Leone.

2.00am *Children's Television*. A profile of the pop group Queen.

2.10 *Film: Killing Cars* (1986) starring Jürgen Prochnow, Sandra Berger and William Conrad. Ralph Kordis, a skilled engineer, develops an engine which can run without petrol. Not surprisingly, Kordis's invention worries the Arab oil nations who trail him with the intention of destroying the engine's patent before it goes to market. Directed by Michael Verwoelke.

5.00 *ITN Morning News* with Richard Bath. Ends at 6.00.

BBC2

8.25 *The Third Man* (b/w) 8.50 *Buck Rogers* (b/w) 9.05 *Flash Gordon* (b/w) 9.25 *Film: Shark* (b/w) 9.50 *News* 10.00 *News* 10.10 *News* 10.20 *News* 10.30 *News* 10.40 *News* 10.50 *News* 11.00 *News* 11.10 *News* 11.20 *News* 11.30 *News* 11.40 *News* 11.50 *News* 12.00 *News* 12.10 *News* 12.20 *News* 12.30 *News* 12.40 *News* 12.50 *News* 1.00 *News* 1.10 *News* 1.20 *News* 1.30 *News* 1.40 *News* 1.50 *News* 2.00 *News* 2.10 *News* 2.20 *News* 2.30 *News* 2.40 *News* 2.50 *News* 3.00 *News* 3.10 *News* 3.20 *News* 3.30 *News* 3.40 *News* 3.50 *News* 4.00 *News* 4.10 *News* 4.20 *News* 4.30 *News* 4.40 *News* 4.50 *News* 5.00 *News* 5.10 *News* 5.20 *News* 5.30 *News* 5.40 *News* 5.50 *News* 6.00 *News* 6.10 *News* 6.20 *News* 6.30 *News* 6.40 *News* 6.50 *News* 7.00 *News* 7.10 *News* 7.20 *News* 7.30 *News* 7.40 *News* 7.50 *News* 8.00 *News* 8.10 *News* 8.20 *News* 8.30 *News* 8.40 *News* 8.50 *News* 9.00 *News* 9.10 *News* 9.20 *News* 9.30 *News* 9.40 *News* 9.50 *News* 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Executive Editor
David Brewerton
CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6130 (-0.0110)
W German mark
2.7336 (-0.0369)
Exchange index
86.0 (-0.9)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1916.6 (+48.4)
FT-SE 100
2422.7 (+60.7)
(USM (Datastream)
152.65 (+1.09)

Contractors
on tunnel
face £400m
write-offs

By John Bell
City Editor

Contractors building the Channel tunnel face write-offs and provisions of up to £400 million, after a settlement of the bitter dispute over spiralling costs. This is expected in the next three weeks.

British companies involved are BICC, Costain, Tarmac, Taylor Woodrow and Wimpey.

Sources close to the project suggest the dispute is likely to be resolved in favour of Eurotunnel which has insisted the full cost of the project should be agreed at £7.2 billion or less.

The 10 contractors in the Anglo-French consortium Transmanche Link have been pressing for a figure of £7.5 million or more to compensate, they say, for the many changes made to the original plan as work progressed.

Mr Alastair Morton, Eurotunnel's British co-chairman, has refused to shift from the position that the extra costs were mostly covered under part of the contract agreed at a fixed price and that TML should bear the additional expense.

In mid-December, an independent report prepared by consulting engineers, appeared to support Eurotunnel's position against TML.

It is understood that the contractors are now increasingly pessimistic over the likely outcome.

Eurotunnel, its 200 bankers and TML have to agree on a revised cost figure before the end of the month, or the project runs out of money.

It is understood that a majority of the bankers is ready to adopt the figures prepared in the independent report which are broadly supported by Eurotunnel.

The contractors would then have little alternative but to make provision of about £400 million each against the disputed amounts. But it is likely that they will consider legal action.

Cadbury
appointed to Panel

By Our City Staff

Sir Adrian Cadbury has been appointed a member of the Takeover Panel. He joins the bankers and industrialists, chaired by Mr David Calcutt, who police the City's merger activity.

Sir Adrian was chairman of Cadbury-Schweppes from 1975 until last May. As such he faced the threat of a bid from General Cinema, the US food and leisure group, for several years so will be well acquainted with the Panel's workings.

He is being appointed to strengthen the Panel's industrial representation and is known for his strong views against excessive merger activity. He will also be able to represent the Bank of England's views since he is a director of the Bank.

TOURIST RATES

| | Bank | Bank |
|-------------|-------|-------|
| Australia | 2.08 | 1.95 |
| Belgium | 12.85 | 12.75 |
| Canada | 1.04 | 0.95 |
| Denmark | 1.19 | 1.04 |
| France | 1.04 | 0.94 |
| Germany | 1.04 | 0.94 |
| Italy | 1.04 | 0.94 |
| Japan | 1.04 | 0.94 |
| Netherlands | 1.04 | 0.94 |
| Spain | 1.04 | 0.94 |
| Sweden | 1.04 | 0.94 |
| Switzerland | 1.04 | 0.94 |
| USA | 1.04 | 0.94 |
| UK | 1.04 | 0.94 |

'A time of opportunities in the 1990s'

By Our City Staff

As the 1990s begin, leading business figures give their view of prospects for the decade.

Sir Denis Henderson, chairman of ICI: "During the last 10 years, we have made dramatic changes to our business. ICI has become a much more international with a spread across the globe that few companies can match."

"At the same time, we have reshaped our portfolio of products, and our profits, in consequence, come from a sharply different range of businesses than at the beginning of the decade."

"We have improved our productivity substantially, sharpened our approach to safety, health and the environment, emphasized ever more vigorously the need for quality and stepped up our efforts on marketing and innovation."

"Looking ahead - already, huge changes can be predicted

in the world at large. Nobody knows where the astonishing recent upheavals in Eastern Europe will end but our patient foundations laid there over many years give us a splendid chance to take advantage of the new business opportunities that will arise."

"The promise we have identified in the Asia-Pacific market for many of our products is emerging even faster than we expected."

"The growing public concern to protect the environment which we and our families share brings a new focus, both on our responsibilities and on new business opportunities."

Sir Trevor Holdsworth, president of the Confederation of British Industry:

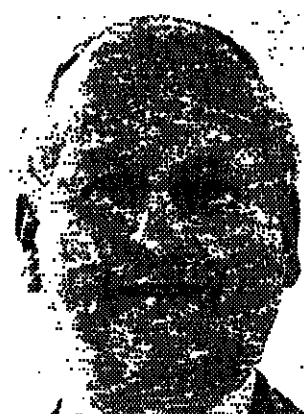
"The 1980s have been the best decade I have known - after 40 years in industry - for managing business. The two previous decades were domi-



Holdsworth: refreshing 1980s noted by policies more akin to the Eastern bloc, both under Tories and Labour, so the 1980s have been very refreshing.

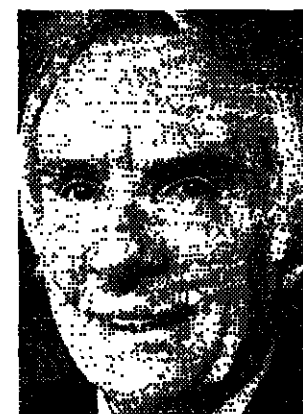
"We had been a nation that had gone downhill but that has been reversed - something which has not occurred before, except for the effect of wars."

"We are thus beginning to get our act together but as we



Henderson: need for quality move into the 1990s, I would like to see industrial investment back on track. We certainly do not want to see any companies reverting to the rationalizations seen in the early 1980s.

"Rather, we want to see them continue to invest so new opportunities will not be missed."



Harrison: exciting prospects produce tremendous opportunities for those quick enough to grasp them."

"We should be grateful to the 1980s for helping us to forget the 1960s and 1970s. We can face the 1990s with confidence. We will meet problems and crises ahead. But they are all capable of being overcome. In the past 10 years, British

Airways has become a global player in a growth market and we will continue to develop the plans we have successfully put in place."

winning strategy. There is still time to take advantage of this unique opportunity, but not a moment should be lost."

On the other hand, many have left it late to develop a

Mr Stanley Kalms, chairman of Dixons Group: "We are seeing the end of the 'pile it high, sell it cheap' philosophy. The 1980s were about the democratization of retailing. A larger number of products were available to more people."

"Instead of completely new inventions the 1990s will bring new products which are improvements of existing concepts such as high definition TV. In the 1990s, we are unlikely to see a reinvention of the wheel. What we are going to see is much better quality, higher standards and an improvement in facilities."

He predicts there will be a greater polarization between out-of-town and high street retailing, with smaller, easy-to-carry goods sold in the high street and larger products out-of-town.

Value of UK takeovers at record £52bn

By Neil Bennett

The value of public takeovers in Britain surged to a record £52 billion last year, £20 billion higher than 1988. SG Warburg, the merchant bank, topped the league table of financial advisers, beating its long-standing rival Schroders into sixth place.

The figures, from the magazine *Acquisitions Monthly*, show that Warburg advised on 36 public sector bids in 1989, worth a total of £26.2 billion, almost three times the value of its work in 1988. Schroders worked on 27 deals valued at £14.4 billion.

The rankings however were distorted by Hovland's £13.4 billion bid for BAT. All top five advisers in the table included the bid in their total, since BAT's £25 million defence fees are being shared by Warburg, Lazard Brothers, Goldman Sachs and Shearson Lehman Hutton, while Hambros Bank is advising Hovland. If the BAT bid is discounted, Schroders remains top adviser in value terms, followed closely by Morgan Grenfell and then Warburg.

The figures will come as a

TAKEOVER LEAGUE

| Advisers | Deals | Value (£m) |
|-------------------------|-------|------------|
| 1 SG Warburg (4*) | 36 | 26,200 |
| 2 Lazard Brothers (11) | 25 | 24,200 |
| 3 Goldman Sachs (6) | 4 | 19,740 |
| 4 Shearson Lehman (9) | 5 | 15,450 |
| 5 Hambros Bank (16) | 17 | 14,450 |
| 6 Schroders (1) | 27 | 14,430 |
| 7 Morgan Grenfell (2) | 27 | 14,310 |
| 8 Lazard Freres (2) | 8 | 10,420 |
| 9 Bankers Trust Int (1) | 11 | 10,184 |
| 10 Hambros Bank (7) | 18 | 10,180 |
| 11 HSBC (1) | 18 | 7,450 |
| 12 West Parfils (1) | 3 | 6,077 |
| 13 Sunningdale (10) | 15 | 4,251 |
| 14 O Haverly (10) | 7 | 2,072 |
| 15 Baring Brothers (12) | 12 | 1,502 |

*1988 ranking. Source: *Acquisitions Monthly*. Table based on completed and failed public takeover bids.

blow to two other City firms. County NatWest falls from fourth place out of the top 15 following the publication of the Department of Trade report into the Blue Arrow affair this year. Hill Samuel, the merchant bank bought by the TSB Group two years ago, dropped out of the top 25 table.

Last year was a victory for US finance houses in the City. Two, Goldman Sachs and Shearson Lehman, appear in third and fourth place respectively, even though they worked on only nine bids between them.

Two other US advisers

appear for the first time. Bankers Trust International is ninth, while Wasserstein Perella is twelfth, mainly due to its work for Newgateway in the £2 billion battle for Gateway.

Mr Philip Healey, publisher of *Acquisitions Monthly*, said the US banks' presence in the City is now permanent. "Four years ago, it was unheard of to see a US bank involved in a bid. Now it is rare not to see one."

The table also shows the emergence of JO Hambro Magan, the corporate finance boutique, as a force in the City. It enters the table for the first time in 14th place, with seven bids to its credit worth £2.87 billion.

Acquisitions Monthly predicts that takeover activity will slow in 1990, and already showed signs of tailing off at the end of last year.

It suggests however that European and Scandinavian companies will remain active bidders.

The acquisitions world is becoming increasingly international. Last year there were 18 offers worth more than £500 million. Twelve of these came from partly or wholly foreign-owned bidders.

Lovell attacks Higgs over defence document figures

By Our City Staff

YJ Lovell, the construction group, has replied angrily to the defence document issued by Higgs & Hill at the weekend in their £137 million bid. It accuses Higgs of disguising its true asset value and inflating its housebuilding profits.

Mr Andrew Wassell, Lovell chief executive, said the 423p asset value given by Higgs "mixed apples with oranges". The figure included the housebuilding and property divisions, but only four sites from the construction business. "They have not given us a true net asset value. My guess is the construction division has a negative net worth, and the true net asset value is less than 366p," he said.

Mr John Theakston, Higgs's

managing director, insisted the division has a positive value, but had not been included in the asset calculation because it was an earnings-based business.

Lovell also questioned



Andrew Wassell yesterday

Higgs's forecast profits of £7.1 million for 1989, or £26,000 a house. "This would make them one of the most profitable housebuilders in the country. Traditionally they have never been in the league. They have put everything they can into this year's figures. What impact will it have next year?"

He said he wondered whether the profits had been achieved with land sales and a reduction in asset write-downs, which Mr Theakston later denied.

"We have grown used to Lovell sniping at the edges," he said. "I don't think there is anything of substance here."

Lovell has until Saturday to raise its 405p-a-share offer for the company.



Screen presence: Nigel Whittaker is put into view by a camcorder at the Comet store in Hayes, Middlesex, yesterday

Pace hot up in Kingfisher's Dixons bid

Kingfisher's bid for Dixons gathers pace today, the first closing date for the £568 million offer.

Officials at the Office of Fair Trading also resume their investigation into the bid after the year-end break.

They are believed to be close to finalizing their recommendation to Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Trade Secretary,

on a Monopolies Commission investigation.

Kingfisher submitted a 70-page document to the OFT after launching the 120p per share cash offer and has since provided additional information. Betting in the City is that the bid will be cleared and that Dixons will not base its defence on an MMC reference.

Mr Nigel Whittaker, King-

fisher's corporate affairs director, who spent New Year's Day touring outlets in the London area, said he was satisfied with the progress of the offer so far. He claims Dixons, which quitted a profit forecast from its defence document, had failed to respond to criticisms of its recent performance.

Mr Stanley Kalms, Dixons

chairman, promises a forecast later in the battle. Meanwhile, few acceptances are expected today with Dixons shares staying comfortably above the offer price at 136p. Pending the forecast, analysts say that revised terms from Kingfisher should bring victory in the light of Dixons disappointing share price performance last year.

Pound still facing DM pressure

The pound and other leading currencies could come under fresh pressure from the mark today when the world's main foreign exchange markets reopen.

Analysts see sentiment continuing to favour the mark and West German stocks and shares well into the new year. They argue that the "East European" bonus, strong domestic growth and relatively high interest rates in West Germany, all add up to a continuance of the mark euphoria of recent weeks.

Despite some year-end profit-taking on the mark, the pound ended 1989 in London at DM2.7336, only one-and-a-quarter pence short of its worst ever. Any renewed pressure from the West German currency could eliminate the modest bounce-back.

WonderWorld runs into more delay with £1bn project

Theme park remains a dream

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

WonderWorld, the company attempting to build a £200 million first phase of what could eventually be a £1 billion Disney-style theme park in Northamptonshire, has run into more problems that point to another delay of nearly a year. After years of false starts because of difficulties in putting together a financing package - so that others in the leisure industry started calling it "WonderWhen?" - WonderWorld was signalling last May that all was, at last, well.

WI Carr, the London broker, had succeeded in lining up a group of what was described as wealthy individual backers, channelling more than £70 million from their private funds through the Virgin Islands. Work was expected to

start shortly on the site at Corby, a cleared former British Steel facility where there is outline planning permission for the leisure park whose initial six themes include StoryVillage, HealthWorld and ComputerPark. That would ensure an opening by August, 1992, it was claimed. But there is still no sign of work starting at Corby.

WonderWorld has given no hint on why the hiatus has occurred and especially if there is any difficulty in drawing down funds, but it is understood that it has, in response to inquiries, assured Corby District Council that it is now confident that a start on construction is imminent, although "not earlier than the first half of February." Given that the first phase of WonderWorld had

been expected to take 39 months, it means that the opening will now be put back to at least May, 1993. At the same time, this - now - 15-year-old project is seeing strong competitors emerging.

The latest is the £2.6 billion plan for a Hollywood-style theme park in Essex, backed by MCA, the American entertainment group. It plans a park based on its Universal Film Studios in Los Angeles.

WonderWorld's difficulties have always centred around raising equity capital and it was a gap of £72.8 million which the unnamed backers were plugging. There was also a stake of about £5 million from Bouygues, Europe's biggest construction company, with also some backing from Brent Walker.

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To: David Burnen, Marketing Director, International Investment Consultants Ltd., 30 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1SB. Tel: 01-638 2540 or 01-588 1932.

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ASK YOUR FINANCIAL ADVISER ABOUT B.I.A.

TEMPUS

Our tips for the top performers of 1990

Last year's *Tempus* tips, average gain 53.3 per cent, are a hard act to follow. The outlook for shares will be clouded by the snails-pace growth of the economy and the market is unlikely to produce returns much higher than bank deposits. In 1990, stock selection is the name of the game.

Four investment themes spring to mind for the coming year, which begins with the FT-SE index bubbling around the 2,400 level, having risen more than 30 per cent in 1989.

The first, as ever, is value. This column always looks for real assets and genuine businesses, those companies which seem to know where they are going and how to get there.

The second is interest rates. They are high and they hurt, and they are not about to come tumbling down. Chancellor Major needs to be sure the high interest rate regime has accomplished its mission before easing the pain, but at some point in 1990, around the Budget or soon after, he is likely to feel secure enough to begin the long descent.

When that happens, or probably shortly before it happens, market sentiment in a couple of key sectors, finance and construction, will swing and there will be money to be made. Wise investors will already be aboard.

The third theme is Europe, especially the Europe beyond the European Community. The changes taking place in

the Soviet satellites look irreversible, and if they are to achieve the political ends of the West they will have to be supported with commerce.

Look for companies which stand to benefit from the development of relatively backward economies, and one is likely to find them already entrenched in West Germany. Construction, certainly, but also insurance, banking, tourism and other services.

Finally, the year will inevitably see some changes in fashion. The strong rise in equity shares in 1989 was not spread across the board. Penny shares and small companies had a poor time while there is a stack of blue chips with single figure price/earnings ratios. Many are worth more. Picking the ones to come back into favour will be rewarding.

Grand Metropolitan spent most of 1989 as everybody's least favourite, because chairman Allen Sheppard moved faster than the market was prepared to accept.

His main "sin" was to sell his betting shops soon after consolidating his position in the industry through the acquisition of the William Hill

chain from Sears. But GrandMet's results last month turned the tide and the shares are on the rise.

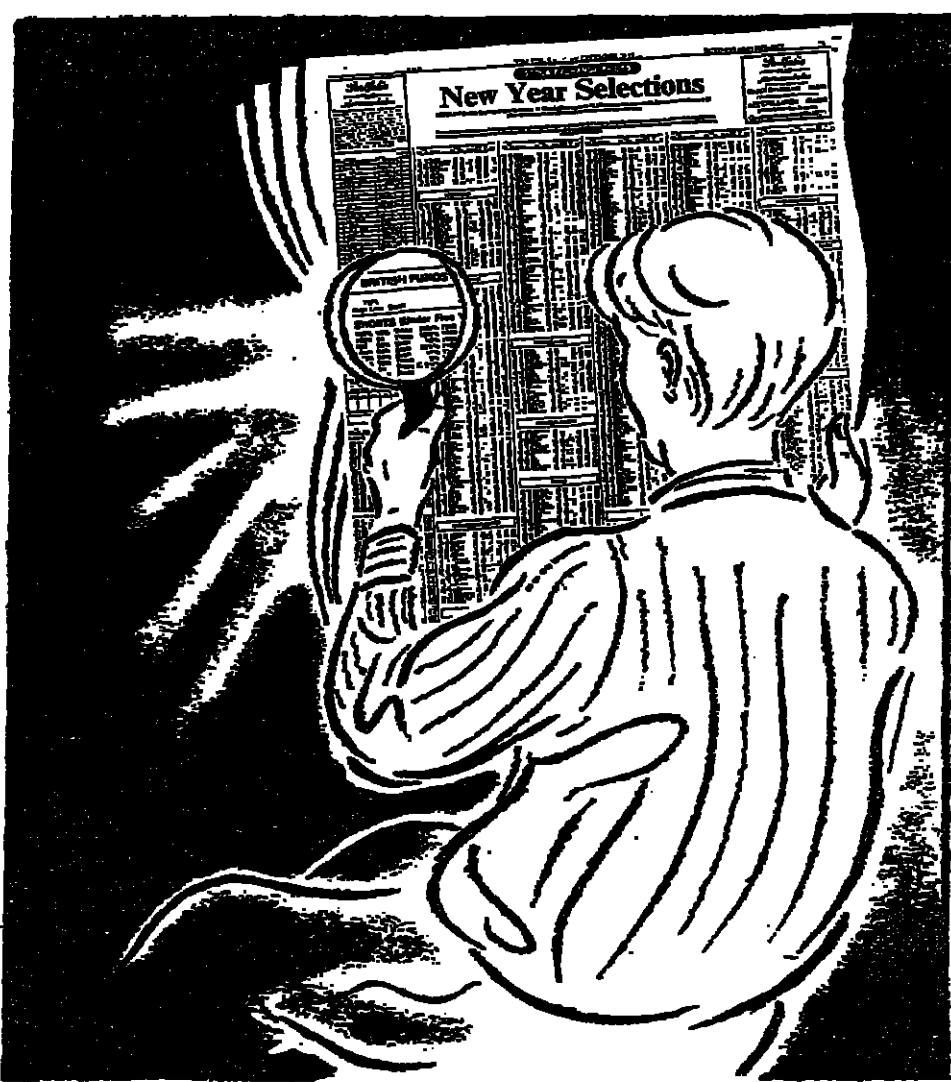
Although they have come up nearly 10 per cent since the results, they are still not quite into a double figure prospective price/earnings ratio. The shares look set to cruise through 700p soon, and to earn their keep throughout the year.

In the solid value stakes, industrial conglomerate Tomkins seems to have been left behind in the rush. Like most acquisitive conglomerates, Tomkins sees its shares frequently undervalued because the market fears a flood of paper, although the reality is that Tomkins has been mean with its equity and knows too well what happens to companies which issue too many shares.

Interim results are due this month, and this may direct attention to the company's overseas strengths, especially in the United States, and the dependable nature of many of its businesses, which include handbags, bicycles, lawnmowers and central heating components. Tomkins is also likely to see some benefit from the opening up of Eastern Europe, given its position in steel valves for industry.

The group is probably due to make another significant acquisition, and with no net borrowings it is in a strong position from which to make a move. The market is concerned that Tomkins will put itself in financial deep water by bidding for Delta. We think that unlikely.

The banking sector is awash with undervalued shares, and it was a close-run thing which of the many we selected, TSB made it into the final three but was voted out on the grounds that there are still too many



shareholders possibly waiting to sell if they see a decent profit. That left Barclays and Midland as the best buys in the sector, and the latter seems to have the better chance of convincing the market that times have changed. The shares were one of the duller performers of the decade and the bank will end the Eighties by reporting a loss. It has learned its lesson on Third World debt and has come up with a number of innovative new products in personal banking.

The cherry on the cake, however, could be the 15 per cent stake held by Hongkong and Shanghai Bank which, sooner or later, is likely to bring the two together. Meanwhile, there is a comfortable prospective yield of nearly 6 per cent to limit the downside.

On the Eastern Europe score, Polly Peck, the best performing share of the Eighties and one of our selections in 1989, merits another inclusion. The company has yet to exploit the potential of the Del Monte Fruit and Sansui electronics deals last year, and it is certain that fruit in particular will receive a boost as Eastern European imports expand.

Alongside developments in its trading operations, the company is planning to demerge the business into three separate entities, the sum of the values of which is likely to add up to more than the present whole. There are still some investors who distrust the company, but that only serves to keep the price in check for those who appreciate good value. On estimates

for both the year just ended and for 1990, the shares are substantially undervalued.

Trafalgar House is hard to beat for sheer good value. The shares are trading on a price/earnings ratio way down into single figures and a yield of about 7.5 per cent. Profits grew 18 per cent last year and look set to advance more than 10 per cent this year, while earnings and dividends are certain to march ahead.

The property and house-building operations will not, of course, entirely escape conditions in the industry but construction, shipping and engineering operations are set for a year of strong growth. Trafalgar's interest in infrastructure projects gives it appeal. The Japanese are taking an increasing interest in Trafalgar House, and the Abu

Dhabi Investment Authority has been building up a holding. Do not expect a bid, but do expect the beginnings of an overdue re-rating.

We comment that Stakis looked an interesting two-way bet when it reported results recently: either the company would meet the demanding targets imposed by the new management or it would probably be taken over for its string of assets. Stakis is an hotel and leisure group which is expanding into private nursing homes, and it has set itself the task of achieving at least 20 per cent compound earnings growth.

If it gets anywhere near achieving that target, the shares are hopelessly undervalued at less than nine times earnings, especially given the asset backing. The shares have underperformed by 20 per cent in the past year. We expect that to be reversed in 1990.

One of the best performing shares of 1989 was Midland & Scottish Resources, the former Jepsens Drilling which is making its mark by offering low-cost oil production techniques for the development of marginal oilfields.

It is accepted that development of marginal oilfields would be one way of easing the country's balance of payment problems, and it is likely that the major oil companies will make use of MSR's expertise in low-cost oilfield development options.

The company will stand or fall on its experience with the Emerald Field, where it is the main contractor with a 44 per cent stake. Speculative, but interesting.

GKN is another well managed company the shares of which are sitting on a low rating, partly as result of history and partly because the market has not taken aboard the extent to which the company has been changed in the last few years.

The last set of interim results demonstrated a highly encouraging expansion in profit margins and prompted most analysts who follow the company to raise their forecasts for the year.

The group is growing fast in industrial services and once it is realized that profits are not about to take a dive, as they did in 1980, because of recessionary pressures, there

should be a re-rating strong enough to carry the price easily through the 500p level and on towards 600p.

Eurolink warrants are a speculative tip - but every good portfolio should have one.

The next few weeks should see a resolution of the wrangle between the company, its 200 bankers and TML, the consortium of construction companies building the cross-Channel link.

The talks may end in spectacular disagreement, with TML's refusal to accept that the tunnel can be built within the £7.2 billion or so estimated by Eurolink. But there are enormous political and commercial pressures on all parties to reach accord. This would pave the way for a further fund-raising by the banks putting up about £800 million in new loans and a rights issue to provide a further £400 million or so.

With the funding problems over, Eurolink shares look cheap. But the more highly geared warrants at 44p, have most mileage in them.

Unique is a much abused word. But it can fairly be applied to Cable and Wireless. It is the only substantial telecommunications business operating on a global scale. It is linking its high-growth domestic networks in Britain, America and Asia through transatlantic and transpacific fibre optic cable projects and will become a single source round-the-world communications company.

The planned sale of a stake in its Hong Kong Telecom subsidiary to an agency of the Chinese government is excellent news, reducing some of the political risks from the 1997 handover of control in Hong Kong to the mainland authorities.

Its likely 20 per cent growth in earnings next year will far outstrip most British industrial companies and justifies a healthy stock market rating. The prospective p/e ratio of 18 falls to 14.5 on next year's estimates. But like highfliers in the cellular radio business, C&W should also be valued on a cash-flow basis. This approach highlights the value in the shares more clearly than the traditional p/e basis. City forecasts throw up figures of 745p to 800p for fair value of the shares a year from now.

SHARES FOR THE NEW YEAR

| | Price (p) | Prospective price/earnings ratio* |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| Cable & Wireless | 554 | 18.1 |
| Eurolink Warrants | 44 | n/a |
| Grand Metropolitan | 628 | 9.9 |
| GKN | 441 | 9.0 |
| Midland & Scottish | 198 | n/a |
| Midland Bank | 399 | n/a |
| Polly Peck | 383 | 8.4 |
| Stakis | 91.5 | 8.6 |
| Tomkins | 282 | 10.1 |
| Trafalgar House | 340 | 7.4 |

*Based on various brokers' estimates. Some ratios are not available either because the company is currently making a loss or because no earnings accrue to warrant.

Ambitious Audiotext lines up for flotation on the junior market

By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

Audiotext, one of the most influential players in telephone marketing and broadcasting, is soon to be floated on the Unlisted Securities Market.

The company, based at Horsa, north London, was launched in 1986 and acquired its name because Mrs Pauline Marks, its managing director, thought it would do for the telephone, what television was doing for television.

It has previously raised cash on the Over The Counter market and now has an over-subscribed private rights issue of £675,000.

Telemarketing - via the telephone - which developed into telebroadcasting, has produced a sector now worth about £130 million a year in sales.

Audiotext had its beginnings in 1978, when marketing promotions were done by mail-shot or on-pack messages, and it was Mrs Marks who developed telemarketing in Britain, subsequently going to the United States to gain knowledge from its more advanced development there.

She said: "The product we have now has no relationship to the cold-calling of consumers which can be so irritating to some."

"These are refined techniques for successful selling being offered to companies or for the broadcasting of information - from sports results to live commentaries - for which a charge is made in various ways."

She found that mailing lists used by companies were so poorly targeted that usually 40 per cent of those on them were unsuitable targets for a specific sale.

Her net was already being spread outside Britain but a watershed came in 1982 when she suggested to Post Office Telephones, as it then was, that it should charge special rates for the services going out under the 0898 calling system, from cricket scores to financial details about companies.

The telephone service did pick up the idea, by launching its own scheme. Mrs Marks therefore had to set up on her own account - the first non-British Telecom operator to do so.

Now Audiotext claims to



Audiotext team: Pauline Marks and director son Stephen

lead the field technically with a development in full voice-interactive computers which allows complex promotional schemes to be run as callers are guided, via computer, through a series of questions and evaluated on their replies. The secret is computer programming to achieve recognition of key words.

Using this system Audiotext ran a £1 million campaign for Marlboro, the Philip Morris cigarette brand, in which there were many winners. The promotion generated 16,000 calls a day for six weeks.

Telemarketing and broadcasting was worth £9 million in sales in 1986 when Audiotext started. In three years sales have multiplied more than 13 times. Information lines account for about 43 per cent of the total.

The use of 0800 freephone lines for marketing purposes is a newer initiative. Several customer care programmes are in the pipeline for this year. Instead of sending complaints by post, which reduces the feedback - all of potential

USM REVIEW

Polysource heads for a place in history

By Carol Leonard

The Third Market is due to be abolished this year under EEC regulations and all companies quoted on it will be allowed to apply for graduation to the Unlisted Securities Market at the end of the year.

No applications for the Third Market will now be accepted, which means that Polysource Holdings, a plastics company based in West Glamorgan, is likely to enter the history books as one of the last companies to be given a listing. Polysource is arriving by an introduction of 10.3 million shares by TC Coombs, its sponsoring broker.

Trading is scheduled to start today with an expected opening price of about 10p, giving the company a market capitalization of about £1.04 million.

A specialist in high-precision injection moulding, Polysource has developed a niche market in the replacement of metal components with moulded plastics. It is one of the few companies here which has adopted a moulding technique developed in Japan. Polysource's plastic components are as durable as the metal ones they replace but they weigh much less and are less expensive to produce, says Mr Raymond Cottrell, its chairman.

The company operates from Neath and its customer base includes several leading British and Japanese electronics companies as well as the aerospace and defence industries.

There are another half dozen companies of similar size, among them Audiotext which had a turnover last year of just over £2 million. Mrs Marks's son, Mr Stephen Marks, the company's marketing director, said that should be doubled this year.

"It is just one demonstration of the enormous growth we are seeing in the market. The recent promotion successes have brought interest from the United States where we may set up a joint company." There is already an Audiotext subsidiary in Spain, a partly owned operation in Australia and links with operators in France and West Germany.

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REPORTING THIS WEEK

Profits likely to top £70m at First National Finance

TODAY

Interim: Kleinwort, Benson Gilt Fund.
Final: None announced.
TOMORROW

First National Finance Corporation, the consumer finance and property development group, is expected to report final pre-tax profits of £74 million, giving earnings of 31.8p a share, compared with £68.7 million last year, according to Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the broker.

Many of FNFC's markets may have reached their peak. Mr Richard Langdon, the chairman, and Mr Tom Wrigley, the chief executive, have operated a prudent lending policy, keeping bad debts below industry averages, although the increase in interest rates may put a strain on this.

The core consumer credit division, where the company carved out a niche in the secondary mortgage and home improvement lending market, is unlikely to continue growing at the same rate as first half after the sharp slowdown in credit growth since July.

Hollis Group, the Manchester clothing distributor and yarn processor, will be feeling the effects of the economic downturn which has resulted in lucrative retail demand.

The group supplies a large number of high street chains, such as Littlewoods and BHS, which have been experiencing a slowdown in the retail environment and this has led to some big retailers de-stocking.

With more than half of its profits coming from the importing and distribution businesses, the group's competitive edge may have been blunted by adverse currency rates with a weak pound squeezing margins.

Analysts expect pre-tax profits of between £1.5 million and £1.7 million at the half-way stage, against £1.2 million last time.

This will have been boosted by April's £8 million purchase of Hawkshead Sportswear, the mail order country clothing retailer, which is performing well and should make a decent contribution.



Prudent: Tom Wrigley (left), chief executive, and Richard Langdon, chairman of FNFC

supplier, compared with last year's £6 million.

The group has built up a strong internationally-based portfolio of brands. Since 1985, annual sales have climbed from £20 million to £97.5 million, with profits keeping pace, rising from £2.7 million to £12.8 million.

However, this rate of growth may temporarily slow. The clothes, from low-cost manufacturers in the Far East and southern Europe, saw sales of brand name products restrained by problems in procuring enough quality denim from suppliers in Hong Kong.

In July, the group, which is headed by Mr Roger Rowland, made a £9.3 million rights issue to reduce gearing after expenditure to establish overseas markets and reduce dependence on the British market.

However, Britain still accounts for more than half of sales, with America the largest export market with about £20 million (£12.4 million), although Pepe is expanding fast elsewhere overseas - particularly in Spain and Scandinavia.

Savills, the chartered surveyor and estate agent, will struggle to match last year's half-way pre-tax profits of £3.85 million in what can only be described as a difficult market.

Analysts expect the figure to be nearer to £3 million this time.

Although most of its business is in the healthier commercial sector, with about 80 per cent of turnover and 65 per cent of profits, the downturn in the residential housing market will be felt.

Savills is finding it costly to maintain its prestige agency image and, despite regular exposure in publications like *Country Life*, it is unlikely to see any great upturn this year. The company has also opened three more residential offices during the year, however, they will probably make a loss this time.

The agricultural side, where the company transacts 22 per cent of all British land purchases and sales, saw some improvement in the year but has been fairly flat more recently.

THURSDAY

The slowdown in the City office market is likely to keep earnings under pressure at Baker, Harris Saunders Group, the chartered surveyor and commercial estate agent. Although turnover in the City has not been affected to such a great extent, it is taking longer to do deals.

The company was to have reported last month but it delayed following the resignation of Mr Jonathan Edwards as managing director. Mr Michael Baker, the chief executive, has taken over the post.

With costs rising and fee income falling, analysts think it unlikely that the company will be able to match last year's pre-tax profit of £1.94 million at the half-way stage. Profits nearer the £1.5 million level are expected.

Interim: Baker Harris Saunders Group.
Final: None announced.

FRIDAY
Interim: None announced.
Final: Jersey Electricity.
Philip Pangalos

Big rise in company failures forecast

By Melinda Wittstock

High interest rates and inflation will send an increasing number of businesses to the wall in the first quarter of 1990, a gloomy survey, published yesterday, has forecast.

The survey — which shows boardroom optimism at its lowest since the Dun & Bradstreet business information group started it in 1987 — points to the inevitability of an acceleration in the number of failures this winter.

Replies from 1,000 managing directors in large and medium-sized businesses showed the outlook for sales, profits and orders being sharply worse than three months ago.

Confidence is measured by subtracting the percentage of respondents forecasting a decrease in sales, profits, orders, price increases, employment and advertising from those predicting increases.

On this basis, the overall "optimism index" has slumped from a positive balance of 29 points to just three, while the indices for sales, profits and orders have all dropped individually by between 27 and 38 points.

Confidence about retail sales is down from 21 points to minus 18, with those surveyed even more pessimistic about profits — down 20 to minus 26.

Mr Keith Williams, the managing director of Dun & Bradstreet UK, said the survey indicates an inevitable rise in failures.

A regional analysis suggests that Scotland and the North of England are faring slightly better than London and the South-east, where business confidence has plummeted far faster.

Most of those questioned nationally expect to employ fewer people, particularly in the retail trade with the optimism index for employment falling 27 points to minus 13 in the sector.

Total expenditure on advertising also looks set to fall, with a 17-point drop in the index.

NCT seeks Budget tax incentives

By Our City Staff

Small businesses face a gloomy new year as high interest rates continue to bite, according to the National Chamber of Trade.

It called on Mr John Major, the Chancellor, to include tax incentives for investment by small firms in his Budget.

Miss Georgina James, chairman of the NCT board, said: "All the indications are that the small firms sector will have had only fair trading results in 1989 and prospects for this year are poor."

"Businesses continually remind the chamber that 12 months ago they catered for interest rates of 7 per cent in their investment budgets. For months now, they have been faced with double that figure. Large firms have the benefit of internal borrowing facilities; small firms must go to their high street banks at 3 per cent above base rate, currently 16 to 17 per cent."

Europe strengthens its position as a theme for decade

Britain and the people who hog its business headlines are not going to change suddenly as the Eighties end — or even when the new decade officially starts a year later. But new themes for the Nineties have already emerged: the movement of big business on to a truly European scale and the likely end of Mrs Thatcher's era.

Life will be different for many people in the City, as well as Westminster, depending on whether Mrs Thatcher, who dominated a whole decade, is succeeded by a new generation of Tories (benefiting prominent middle rank ministers such as Michael Howard and Michael Portillo) or by Labour (shooting Gordon Brown and John Smith to centre stage).

The top jobs at both the Bank of England and the Treasury will be available for men — and it is at present only men — who will have plenty of time to make their mark. Sir David Scholey, who made the SC Werbur Group by far the biggest City winner from the Stock Exchange Big Bang, is a strong candidate to succeed Robin Leigh-Pemberton as Governor.

He has as good an understanding of the pan-European financial scene as anyone in the City. Eddie George, the newly-promoted deputy Governor, is a powerful internal rival. Traditionally, Labour might be thought to favour the insider over the merchant banker. But they might prefer Sir Kit McMahon, a former deputy Governor now at Midland Bank, where the potential and problems of the relationship with Hongkong and Shanghai will have to be sorted out. Karl Otto Pöhl, of the Bundesbank, might really be the Governor, if not in name.

The big four clearing banks are, collectively, better led than at any time in living memory. NatWest's still-energetic Lord Alexander, having discovered the joys of finance after a dazzling career at the bar, will surely either



Scholey: Governor candidate



Rawlinson: fast-moving career



Byatt: regulator for water



Harding: chairman of BNF



Burns: Treasury dark horse

Faces to make headlines as business moves into the 90s

make sparks fly at NatWest or make headlines elsewhere.

A Labour government might enhance the chances of the five Nick Menck succeeding Sir Peter Middleton as head of the Treasury.

Sir Terence Burns, the young economist who turned seasoned Treasury native, is a dark horse. Although chief economic advisers do not normally make the top job.

The privatization of electricity will follow water before the next election, consolidating one of the great permanent changes of the Eighties.

Ed Wallis, the chief executive of PowerGen, has already shown sprightly originality, and John Baker could make a canny captain of industry if allowed to take the helm at National Power.

The water company chairmen like their counterparts in the electricity boards have yet to emerge from an imposed collectivity. It would be surprising, however, if Nicholas Hood, of Wessex Water, and John Harris, of East Midlands Electricity, were not among those to make news.

Privatization, ironically,

has also spurred the advance of the regulation industry. Just as Sir Gordon Borrie, of Fair Trading, and Sir Bryan Carr-Saunders, of Telecommunications, have already made their mark, others, such as Ian Byatt, at water, and Stephen Littlechild, at electricity, will become familiar figures.

There might even be a Euro-variation of Sir Gordon — and who better than the original. Among established names, Rocco Forte, of Trusthouse Forte, should finally clinch his claim to the Savoy hotel group while Michael Green, of Carlton Communications, has

cast himself to inherit at least some of the spoils from the broadcasting revolution.

Stephen Wallis emerged as a personal winner from losing the takeover battle for his previous company, Plessey, and will certainly want to expand his new fief as head of Wiggins Teape and Appleton, the paper companies which BAT Industries plans to demerge. Eric Nicol will have a different problem as chief executive of United Biscuits but should prosper if he can help new chairman Robert Clarke keep UB independent.

Others may have to change their job to reach their peak, though at this stage they partly select themselves through ambition. Peter Rawlinson, the 38-year-old accountant who will start the decade as new chief executive of the Stock Exchange, will clearly see that as a stage in a fast-moving career. Howard Davies, head of the Audit Commission, relishes the thought of an eventual move fully into the private sector. Christopher Harding, the ex-Hanson executive who now chairs British Nuclear Fuels, may eventually hanker after more, and Nigel

Whittaker, one of the architects of Kingfisher's retail resurgence, could want to fly on his own.

The names of French industrialists will have to become more familiar in the City and industry. Christine Morla-Postel, of Lyonnaise des Eaux, and Antoine Jeancourt-Galliani, of Banque Indosuez (which failed to link with Morgan Grenfell), have had to learn British customs quickly. More prominent figures to watch are Ernest-Antoine Seligman, of COIP, a leading figure in the French employers' group, and Alain Gomez, of Thomson-CSF, the electrical and defence group. Both are typical of a powerful generation of young elite French industrialists who were brought up on strategy. Seligman was the key figure in the Metal Box/Carnaud packaging merger and Gomez has fished with Plessey as well as Ferranti, Robert Louis-Dreyfus, the Franco-American brought in to run Saatchi & Saatchi, may prove a catalyst from this side of the channel.

For acquisitive entrepreneurs like the Saatchi brothers, premature self-destruction rather than self-selection is the main doubt. There is a constant stream of candidates to be the next generation's equivalent of Sir Owea Green, Lord Hanson or Tony Rowland, but the ladder is long and the snakes many. Among those who have climbed far enough to have a realistic chance, Gregory Huchingson, of Tomkins, and Nigel Rad and Brian McGowan, of Williams Holdings, have shown some signs of staying power. At an earlier stage, Christopher Miller, of Wassall, has the vote of Lord Hanson, his former employer. But if the winners of the Nineties could be infallibly spotted, the excitement of running the race would be lost. In any case, many of the most prominent faces of the Nineties will, as ever, be those of the losers.

Graham Searjeant

Port wine sales weather the interest rate storm

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor



Optimistic even in the face of tight economic conditions: Colin Doak, Cockburn's marketing manager, yesterday

While sales of many drinks are falling port wine looks likely to have ended the year with a rise of at least 2 per cent.

Port sales have improved steadily since 1982, after a decline that began in 1979 was halted. But in the first half of last year it was going down so well that a 5 per cent annual increase was being predicted.

The forecast came in a survey by Cockburn Smithies, one of the top five port shippers and part of Allied-Lyons. Seagram's Sandeman is the biggest shipper.

But as the effects of high interest rates bit in the second half, sales growth was reined back in common with many other drinks, according to Mr Colin Doak, Cockburn's marketing manager. "We were very bullish about port at mid-year and we are still optimistic because the drink is proving popular with a wider range of people. Even if economic conditions stay tight we believe we shall see further growth."

Trade monitoring to the end of November puts port sales up 2 per cent in volume for the year to then, while estimates suggest whisky is down 5 per cent and sherry 8 per cent. Cognac sales are reported to

be flat although taking other brandies into account this sector has seen a 2 per cent rise.

Champagne sales are said to be not as strong as during the summer but are still estimated to be 10 per cent up over the year.

Port appears to have succeeded in changing its image to appeal to a wider range of consumers, according to the Cockburn survey. More younger people have started drinking it. The average port drinker is likely to be in the 25 to 44 age group and in the ABCI socio-economic groups. Drinkers are still predominantly male, although 22 per cent are women.

What has also pleased the trade is that while ruby port is still the biggest single seller the more up-market styles have seen big increases. One in two bottles sold are now one of the premium styles and late bottled vintage ports saw their market share rise to 12 per cent by the end of 1988.

In the first half of last year late bottled vintage sales rose 21 per cent. Cockburn's version more than doubled its sales.

Two other premium styles — "vintage character" and

"reserve" — have seen a sales rise of 10 per cent. Aged tawnies and white ports are also reported to be doing well. The increase in the latter category is a turnaround for the shippers which in the past have tried to popularize white port in Britain but with little success.

The Cockburn's range has the highest profile of ports in Britain, according to the survey. Taylor's and Sandeman have the next best reputations followed by Croft. Dow is better known among knowledgeable drinkers but the average drinker puts J Sainsbury, the grocer, into the ratings after the major promotion for its own-label 10-year-old tawny port.

The United Kingdom is the fourth largest market for port, only lagging a little behind Portugal itself and Belgium with Luxembourg. France is by far the largest consumer, with sales three times higher than in the UK.

Cockburn's believes the future for high quality ports now looks bright and expects the amount of port produced in the Douro valley, home of the higher quality wines, to increase by about 15 per cent over the next five to ten years.

Magnums that make their day

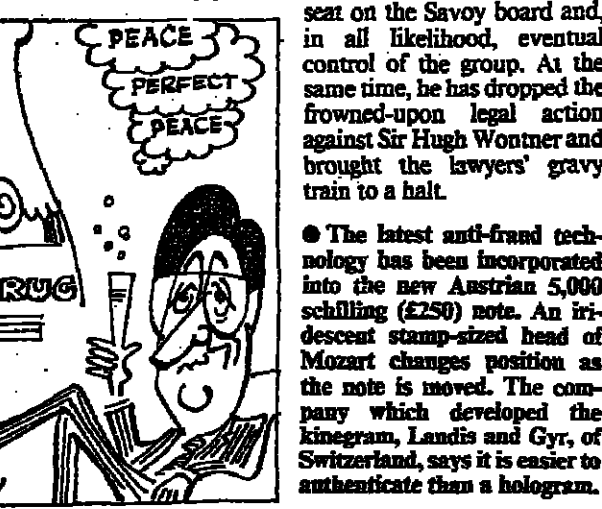
With the official New Year's Honours list now behind us, it falls to the NCT to nominate the City Diary's alternative roll-call, with a magnificent magnum of Krug Grand Cuvée champagne as the award instead of a knighthood. Some recipients would argue, of course, that a magnum of Krug is, in any case, preferable. The salesman of the year award must surely go, not to any equity or gilt trader — since they haven't had much to sell anyway — but to Sir Philip Harris, who sold Harris Queensway for £450 million in July 1988 and watched the market capitalization of re-named Lowndes Queensway tumble to just £27 million during the course of 1989. Its new chief executive, Eddie Dayan, has since admitted that the business was in much worse shape than they had realized. Management information systems were, he said, badly lacking, weekly sales figures were based on the money in the till at the weekend, with no idea of what had been sold at what cost and what price. Sir Derek Alton-Jones, chairman of Ferranti, deserves a prize for spotting the electronic invention of the decade — International Signals' accounts — as does former NatWest chairman Lord Boardman, already acknowledged as being a sporting sort of chap, for finally doing the honourable thing and falling on his sword amid an impromptu press conference on the steps of the bank. A

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

So close at the close

Market-makers will make a market in anything, as Stan Sekaz, traded options analyst with Shaw & Co, discovered on Friday when he and his dealer Paul Osborne won a charity sweepstakes run by the Stock Exchange. The competition was to guess the closing level of the FT-SE 100 index — for December FT-SE contracts — at 11.20am on December 29. "We went for 2,415 and that was exactly the level it did close at," says Sekaz — who

once wrote a column for Investors Review — clatching the £1,000 cheque which was the prize. "But about three minutes before the close, just as the index was moving into the 2,415 level, another dealer offered us £500 for our ticket. Fortunately, we decided to stay with it." Part of the prize money will be donated to the NSPCC, a charity chosen by Osborne's mother, in accordance with the sweepstakes's rules.



Big Apple, sour taste

By Gillian Bowditch

After a 16-month stint in New York, Geoff Dennis, James Capel's chief international economist, has returned to London. Officially back at home base with effect from today, Dennis tells me that he, his wife and one of his three children moved to the Big Apple "to improve my contacts out there and to get a good feel for the US economy." That task has, he says, now been completed. Although he clearly enjoyed his time there, it wasn't without its bad points. One such happened after a free upgrade to Concorde on the return leg of a business trip from London to New York. Arriving home four hours early on a balmy Saturday evening in late June, Dennis decided to take his wife out to dinner. While they were dining, in the Little Italy district of Manhattan, their car was broken into and the radio stolen. "I'm sure the events are not linked, but in future I will look on the time saved by a Concorde upgrade as a mixed blessing," he says. Dennis, once again working as part of Capel's London-based six-man team will nevertheless continue with his normal service on the US and Canadian economies. And one of his first thoughts is, he says, that the real economy and inflation figures there are likely to be affected in the short-term by the bitterly cold winter they are experiencing. He says that temperatures, including a wind-chill factor, have touched 30 degrees below.

Carol Leonard

Prosperity to continue for off-licences

By Gillian Bowditch

Cash registers in off-licences around the country will have been working non-stop during the weekend for the new year's celebrations. But the jingle of tills is set to continue with off-licences being one of the few really prosperous areas of the retail sector.

Britons spent £20 billion on alcohol in 1989, with more than £5 billion going to the take-home market. But with more and more people opting to drink at home rather than in public houses and restaurants, the off-licences and supermarkets are increasing their market share.

Total British spending on alcohol has grown 13 per cent

in the past three years while the take-home business has increased 20 per cent, according to a report just published by Verdict, a market research group.

The supermarket groups have led the boom in take-home trade with 20 per cent of take-home drink sold by three groups, Sainsbury's, Tesco and Gateway. The largest specialist off-licence chain is Victoria Wine, part of Allied-Lyons, which has a 6.2 per cent market share.

It is closely followed by Thresher, part of Whitbread, with 6.1 per cent and Grand Metropolitan's Peter Dominic with 6 per cent. Surprisingly, Marks and Spencer is the tenth largest retailer of alcohol

with 3.7 per cent. The fight is now on between the supermarkets and the specialist off-licences. The supermarkets have gained the upper hand by making alcohol more accessible. Supermarket promotional literature has helped to take the mystic out of wine.

Verdict estimates that grocers' drink sales reached £2.5 billion in 1989, an increase of about 12.5 per cent against average sales growth of 9.5 per cent which emphasizes the increasing importance of drink to food retailers.

The off-licences sold £2.1 billion-worth of drink last year, an increase of 6.5 per cent. The off-licences are fighting back by extending opening hours, giving a higher

level of service and by more special offers.

The off-licences have the ability to react more quickly than the supermarkets to changes in trends in consumption. The big growth area in the 1980s has been the increase in wine sales. Between 1983 and 1988, wine sales increased 46 per cent to £3.5 billion with 43 per cent being consumed at home.

White wine is still the most popular — 54 per cent of total wine consumption — but the most buoyant is sparkling wine which rose by 12 per cent in 1988.

Consumption of red wine is also growing, but sales of vermouths and fortified wines are declining.

SD-Scicon seeks revival in US contract

By Our City Staff

SD-Scicon, the computer systems designer and consultant, is hoping to revive its lagging US fortunes by winning a lucrative vehicle emissions testing contract in Florida this month.

Systems Control Inc, SD-Scicon's US subsidiary and one of two US market leaders in computerized vehicle emissions testing, is a front-runner for a Florida state legislature contract which could provide the company with revenues of \$120 million (£74 million) over seven years.

But income from the contract will not begin to flow for another 15 to 18 months. The company has to invest "a considerable amount of

money" to buy land and build inspection stations.

SD-Scicon — already suffering the impact of new US legislation which requires vehicles to be tested every two years instead of every year — is also hoping to win contracts in Minnesota and New York.

Although it recently lost in a bid for Arizona, it already operates on-the-spot emissions checks in California, Maryland, Alaska, Illinois and Washington, having inspected more than 6.5 million vehicles in 1988. It expects to inspect an extra 2.5 million vehicles as a result of the Florida contract, which will be awarded officially soon.

SC-Scicon, under the chair-



Swinestead: plans to develop

Swinestead, plans to develop a business in the next five years. But it will look for joint venture partners in the property and automobile sectors so it can concentrate more on its

core computer systems businesses. A spokesman said: "Buying land and building sites isn't one of SD-Scicon's skills."

The company, created when Systems Designers bought BP's Scicon in 1988, has also completed the last phase of its restructuring with the merger of the UK Scicon and Systems Designers businesses under Mr Ray Waite, its new managing director.

Analysts have downgraded their profit forecasts for SD-Scicon, which reports its 1989 results in March, from £8 million to £7 million (£13.3 million) as a result of a sharper than expected slowdown in UK product sales and a fall in profits in the US vehicle inspection profits.

Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend check. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money raised. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

| No. | Company | Group | Calc or |
|-----|---------------------|------------------|---------|
| 1 | King & Sherrin | Banking/Discount | |
| 2 | Baker PLC (as) | Industrial A-D | |
| 3 | Bulley (Bm) Const | Building/Roads | |
| 4 | Sainsbury J (as) | Food | |
| 5 | Fisons (as) | Industrial E-K | |
| 6 | Wol | Industrial S-Z | |
| 7 | Am New Z | Banking/Discount | |
| 8 | Perry Gp | Motors/Aircraft | |
| 9 | Roskill | Industrial L-R | |
| 10 | PI Fyke | Food | |
| 11 | Attwoods | Building/Roads | |
| 12 | Anglia TV A | Leisure | |
| 13 | Christies Int | Industrial A-D | |
| 14 | McCarthy & S | Building/Roads | |
| 15 | BOC (as) | Industrial A-D | |
| 16 | Deat (as) | Banking/Discount | |
| 17 | Abney National | Banking/Discount | |
| 18 | Smiths Ind (as) | Industrial S-Z | |
| 19 | ISA Ind | Industrial E-K | |
| 20 | Tate & Lyle (as) | Food | |
| 21 | Wilson (Commod) | Building/Roads | |
| 22 | Ryl R Scot (as) | Banking/Discount | |
| 23 | Booker | Food | |
| 24 | Stirling Ind | Industrial S-Z | |
| 25 | Br Airways (as) | Industrial A-D | |
| 26 | Slough Estates (as) | Property | |
| 27 | Aviva Pet | Oil/Gas | |
| 28 | Mersey Foods | Food | |
| 29 | Hardy O & G | Oil/Gas | |
| 30 | Tombria | Industrial S-Z | |
| 31 | Rolls-Royce (as) | Motors/Aircraft | |
| 32 | Tay Homes | Building/Roads | |
| 33 | Erskine Hse | Industrial E-K | |
| 34 | Baroness Units | Industrial S-Z | |
| 35 | Simon Eng | Industrial S-Z | |
| 36 | Anglo Ltd | Building/Roads | |
| 37 | Hickson | Chemicals/Plas | |
| 38 | Coats Viscella (as) | Drapery/Stores | |
| 39 | Marshall | Building/Roads | |
| 40 | Portland | Industrial L-R | |
| 41 | Walcley | Industrial S-Z | |
| 42 | Widnes | Industrial S-Z | |
| 43 | City Centre Rest | Hotels/Caterers | |
| 44 | Cowie (T) | Motors/Aircraft | |

© Times Newspapers Ltd. Daily Total

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

| MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | WEEKLY |
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BRITISH FUNDS

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Capitalization and change on week

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 27. Dealings end January 12. Settlement day January 15. Settlement day January 15.
\$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are Friday's middle prices. Change, dividend, yield and P/E ratios are calculated on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks.

| Company | Price | Change | Div | Yield | P/E |
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| 3740.00 Allied-Lyons (as) | 48 | +0.1 | 2.0 | 4.2 | 11.5 |
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THE LAW

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Brief encounter

Frances Gibb on how law students are being trained for the Bar

A building labourer is in the witness box. He is claiming damages for an injury that he suffered in an accident at work and his counsel is conducting the examination to establish the details of the incident.

It is a routine county court case, except that these participants are not in court — they are in the classroom. And both the labourer and his counsel are trainee barristers, learning through role-play, how it feels to question a witness and to be cross-examined as a witness in court.

This was week eight of the new training course for 840 would-be Marshall Halls at the Inns of Court School of Law, where, for the first time in the Bar's history, they are being taught the practical skills that go to make a good advocate.

It is not before time. Barristers, who pride themselves on being "specialist advocates", are expected, under the Government's proposals for reforming the legal profession, to lose their monopoly of advocacy rights in higher courts. They will resist the proposals all the way. But their performance in those courts is, therefore, very much under scrutiny.

In particular, does it justify the proposal that the Bar retain the "fast track" — in other words, the right of its newly qualified members to appear in all courts, while solicitors have to have extra training and practical experience before they, too, earn those rights?

In terms of legal development, it is almost revolutionary. Gone is the emphasis on fact-crunching and learning by watching senior barristers at work. In its place, students who take the one-year compulsory course after graduating will be immersed in practical exercises to develop skills in communication, interviewing, negotiation and fact-management.

Students will meet such concepts as body language. "Avoid habits which suggest your superiority," the new draft course manual says, "for



Face to face: students play the parts of barrister and witness in a classroom dramatization of a typical court case

example, leaning back with your hands behind your head."

They are warned about the dangers of preconception — a skinhead is no more likely to be violent than a doctor or businessman. They are advised on how to be a good listener and how to improve voice projection.

Above all, they are taught how to put the client at ease. They are urged to "greet" the client, and not to "talk above her", "down to her", or "through her" and not to look at the

solicitor when talking to the client. Clients, would-be barristers are told, do not want to hear legal jargon or to know about "res ipsa loquitur". They should be addressed simply, in understandable language, with no waffle and cliché.

Fortunately, perhaps, the student guinea pigs for the new course do not conform to the public image of a barrister, even in embryo stage. The "labourer", Paul Cape, was a full-time union official, who had been involved in tribunal work. He then

read law and now, aged 34, wants to obtain professional qualification. His "counsel", Alan McCormack, the 42-year-old manager of a small company, wants a career change and is attracted by the "excitement of the Bar".

Even so, the new course has come as a shock to some. Ann Halpern, the course director, says, however, that now they are settling in, the consensus is one of approval because of the more obvious relevance of the work.

"Advocacy training, through consisting of practical exercises, is now a central part of the course in a way it wasn't before," she says. "We are training them to analyse the process of advocacy so that when they are on their feet, they are fully prepared for what is in front of them. Students actually go through a learning experience."

She adds that the course aims to prepare students for pupillage — their first year of life at the Bar — the first interview with the client, through negotiating (most cases end in a settlement out of court) to the court hearing. The workload is quite heavy, so that students learn to manage a mass of information. The key throughout is practical application. "When we teach the law of evidence, for example, we have never before impressed on them the need to apply this to establish the client's case," Halpern says.

Not only are performances torn apart by peers, but students are also assessed throughout the course. At the end, as well as written examinations, their oral performance will be tested, using a video camera and reproducing the atmosphere of the courtroom.

Most of the teaching is given by the school's 28 full-time staff, but large numbers of practising barristers help with course materials, teaching and assessment.

Mr Justice Hoffmann, chairman of the Council of Legal Education, says the course cannot match experience "painfully gained over many years of practice". But it can teach them elementary skills that "the very young Bar quite often seem to lack". There may still be a few pockets of resistance at the Bar among those who, as he describes them, "did not receive any such training and are, in their view, none the worse for it".

But times have changed. Only by showing that the Bar can produce barristers with specialized skills will it be possible to justify any privileges that may remain after the proposed legal reforms are on the statute book.

INNS AND OUTS

Piece of the action, or pie in the sky?

As the New Year starts, Scrivener has learned from the corridors of Freshfields itself, that Freshfields and New York's premier M&A (mergers and acquisitions) firm, Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom, are talking about some kind of association. Though partners in both firms deny the suggestion, the clue might be 30,000ft above your heads at this moment. Trans World Airlines's in-flight magazine, *TWA Ambassador*, has published an article entitled "Masters of the Deal" — in anticipation of its single-market future, Europe is calling on American lawyers for advice on how to play the takeover game. Bruce Buck, the managing partner of Skadden's London office, is attributed with the belief that a fully fledged merger between a British and an American law firm will happen perhaps as soon as in two years. Buck says that Skadden may use its London office either as a base to expand into other European financial capitals, to form working alliances with European law firms or even to merge outright with a British firm. "These are all possibilities that have to be considered," he says. If Skadden's heady eye is not turned on Freshfields, it is turned on someone.

As Christmas fades into New Year, here is a picture to carry with you into the new decade — one of New York's finest firms filled with dancing elves. Traditionally, each Christmas Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton's 170 associates pool funds to buy presents for the firm's staff. They then assemble at the Den Mother's grotto — and set out to deliver the gifts dressed as Santa's elves. Presumably those who refuse to dress as elves get their in-house mail last for the following year.

The journal of West African affairs, *West Africa*, revealed recently that customary marriage laws have been revised in the Eritrea area of Ghana. A fine of 10,000 cedi (about £20) will henceforth be imposed on those who divorce without the consent of the traditional council. Those who insist on divorce despite an amicable settlement by arbitrators will have to pay 20,000 cedi to the partner who agrees to the settlement. In addition, chiefs who marry literate women must now pay 7,000 cedi "head money" and give a bottle of schnapps to the parents of the bride. Parents of illiterate brides will receive less money for their daughters, but will still get the schnapps.

Scrivener

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North of England

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Candidates should be educated to degree level and be professionally qualified.

Proven relevant and successful experience in the Secretary's Department of a substantial plc is a prerequisite. The Executive Directorate of the Group is small and highly integrated and the candidate, probably in his or her 30's, should be comfortable working with a high profile in such an environment.

The initial remuneration package is expected to be £27,500 with a range of benefits including car and relocation assistance if required. To apply, please send a comprehensive CV or request an application form from Ross Monro, Theaker Monro & Newman, Regency Court, 62-66 Deansgate, Manchester, M3 2EN, (061-832 0033) quoting ref. 3626.

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The successful applicant will report to the Ombudsman and will be responsible for investigating all complaints received up to but excluding the final decision.

Salary will be dependent on qualifications and experience and will be not less than £20,000. For further details regarding this appointment interested applicants should write, with a copy of their C.V., to: The Registrar, The Building Societies' Ombudsman Council, 35-37 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1X 7AW.

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Applicants must have substantial experience and knowledge of the work of an Assessor's Department and be able to demonstrate a strongly developed management capability. They will be required to display the qualities not only to lead a sectional division comprising both professional and technical staff but also to contribute to the overall direction of the Department towards the successful achievement of the Assessor and Community Charges Registration Officer's statutory obligations.

Information Packs from Miss Jill Thomson, Administrative Officer, Lothian Regional Council, Regional Assessor's Department, 30/31 Queen Street, EDINBURGH EH1 2LZ. Tel. No. 031 - 225 1399 Ext. 275

Closing date: 19 January 1990.

The Lothian Regional Council is an equal opportunities employer and will prevent discrimination, particularly on the grounds of sex, marital status, disability, race, colour, religious belief, political belief, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, trade union activity, responsibility for dependants or employment status.

LOTHIAN

DIRECTOR c.£20,000-£25,000

The Child Psychotherapy Trust is a London-based charity, unique and pioneering in its aims to make NHS treatment for emotionally damaged children more widely available throughout the UK. The Trustees wish to appoint a Director to head-up the new office of the Trust and to assume responsibility for funding a full programme of awards for scholarships, new trainings in Child Psychotherapy outside London and a range of specific projects undertaken by members of The Association of Child Psychotherapists, the official body of the profession.

Currently there are only 250 Child Psychotherapists practising within the UK. This number is disproportionately low compared with the number of suitable people who want to train, chiefly because trainees have to pay costs themselves for a long and intensive training. The Trust is undertaking a campaign at the highest levels of decision-making in conjunction with the ACP to seek ways of settling up and funding a training structure within the NHS, to complement the existing career establishment for qualified child psychotherapists.

Reporting to the Chairman of the Trustees and responsible for a full-time Administrator and ad hoc support staff, the Director will undertake an extensive fund-raising and public relations campaign in London and other regional centres. The Trust is already a going concern supported by core funding from The Department of Health and the Director will take over a funding base which was started in 1987.

We are looking for commitment to our objectives, an outstanding record of fund-raising across a wide range of initiatives and management experience. Essential personal qualities are tact and enthusiasm combined with excellent presentation skills.

Please send a full CV in confidence to The Chairman, The Child Psychotherapy Trust, 27 Ulster Road, London NW6 1ED.



RIVERSIDE HEALTH AUTHORITY

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

116 Fulham Palace Road, W.6.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

(RESOURCE PLANNING)

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We are looking for someone with flair and imagination to head our Resource Planning section. If you are innovative and analytical with experience of financial management and planning in a large organisation and good interpersonal skills this post will provide an excellent opportunity to play a key role in the exciting developments planned for the District.

You will be expected to take a lead role in the following areas:

- development of the District's Resource Management Programme;
- assessing the implications of, and preparing for implementation of the key proposals arising from the NHS Review;
- development and implementation of improved arrangements for the allocation and monitoring of AIDS funds;
- development of business plans;
- management of the District's Joint Finance and Inner Area Programme funds.

It is envisaged that as the District's Resource Management Programme develops, the postholder will be dedicated to working full time on the project.

Candidates should ideally have a degree and/or relevant professional qualifications. For an informal discussion please call Barry Elliott, Director of Resources on 01-846 7418.

A job description and application pack are available from Sara Whitmore, Directorate of Personnel, 5-7 Parkers Green, London SW9 4JL on 01-846 6747.

Closing date: 19th January 1990.

Interviews will be held week commencing 26th January 1990.

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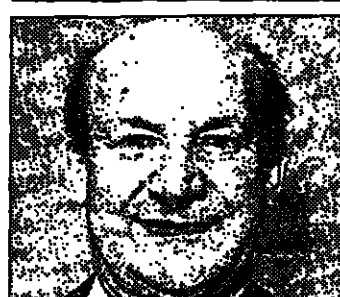
THE LAW

Treat the charter as a starter

At the recent European Summit in Strasbourg, Britain was yet again isolated by 11 votes to 1 on the issue of the Social Charter. This is the charter that Mrs Thatcher has described as "Marxist interventionism... more like a socialist charter". The Government has since modified its tone but remains implacably opposed to any enforceable basic European rights for employees.

Briefly, the charter covers:

- Free movement and equal treatment for workers throughout the European Community;
- Decent wages, restrictions on withholding of wages, free placement services;
- Better working conditions, annual paid holiday, weekly break from work;
- Adequate social security for the unemployed;
- Right to join a trade union (or not to join) and to make collective agreements and to strike;
- Vocational training;
- Equal treatment, and information, consultation and participation of workers;
- Health and safety at work and the protection of children and adolescents;
- Decent standard of living for the retired;



Not strong enough: Labour MP Ron Leighton (left). Too strong: Mrs Thatcher and Norman Fowler

Helping the disabled achieve integration at work, at home and in the community.

This modest scheme is in its third draft; changes have been made largely because of Britain's stance. Concern by the Government and newspaper proprietors that the protection of the young might interfere with newspaper deliveries led to an exception that children under 16 would be permitted to do "light work". The right to strike, unqualified in the first draft, is now subject to "exceptions specified in existing legislation" (in each country).

Not only is the substance of the

We need more rights than the Social

Charter offers, writes John Hendy, QC



charter less stringent than originally announced, so is its enforcement. Instead of the binding legislation for which some may have hoped, few of the items are to be in the form of directives. Some matters are not even to be in the form of recommendations. These include the right to join unions, to strike, to bargain collectively, and against discrimination.

The right to a "decent wage" is to be a recommendation, but the EC commissioner for social policy, Vasso Papatheou, says that "in no way are we going to say in quantitative terms what is a decent wage".

The comment of the Labour MP Ron Leighton in the Commons debate last month that the charter "is an empty gesture, a slogan, a fig-leaf to cover the competitive free-for-all of 1992" may be too cynical. After all, the declaration signed at Strasbourg by the other 11 countries does symbolize EC recognition of basic standards important to working people throughout Europe, including the 25 million in this country.

The Government is opposing the charter primarily on the ground that it considers the matters covered by the charter are matters for each state and not for

the EC. This means that the British Government wants to preserve the right of employers in Britain to impose, lawfully, worse conditions on their employees than the legal minimum terms for other European employees. There can be no other reason for defending the present British position of no statutory right to a holiday (let alone a paid one) against the minimum paid annual holidays required in every other European country, unless it is to ensure that British employers can avoid paying for holidays.

The Government's position is, therefore, one of opposing the notion of universality of workers' rights. This stance has led it to introduce legislation in breach of standards of international law to which it is bound. Last May, the International Labour Organization Committee of Experts found eight major aspects of UK employment legislation to be in breach of ILO conventions.

The Government's justification for refusing to accept the minimal international standards of the charter has been stated repeatedly. As the Employment Secretary Norman Fowler, said succinctly in the Commons debate: "It will increase labour costs and the impact and effect of that will be to increase unemployment."

This argument is contrary to



No minimum wage: Vasso Papatheou, the EC Social Commissioner

powerful research that reasonable labour standards do not increase costs, but in fact increase efficiency. Yet even assuming that the granting of basic rights at work increases labour costs, there is all the more reason for insisting on the principle of universality. Let all the employers in Europe be burdened with the same extra costs. Why should British employers be permitted to under-cut the costs of European competitors?

On either analysis, universality of labour standards protect jobs. If the West had been more effective in enforcing the ILO standards internationally, Europe would not

have lost millions of jobs in coal, textiles, heavy engineering, shipbuilding, iron and steel to the Third World with its cheap labour, horrendous conditions of work, and absence of rights. So a tougher, enforceable EC charter should be just a beginning. Let us move on to enforcing the ILO and other international law obligations around the world.

● The author is a barrister and chairman of the Institute of Employment Rights, which has recently published his pamphlet "The Conservative Employment Laws, a National and International Assessment". He writes in a personal capacity.

Court of Appeal

Law Report January 2 1990

Court of Appeal

Judge should specify corroborating evidence

Regina v Allan
Regina v Willis
Before Lord Justice McCowan, Mr Justice Roch and Mr Justice Aillon
[Judgment December 21]

Where the quality of identification evidence was poor and the supporting evidence weak the judge should specify which evidence was capable of corroborating the identification and not merely refer to it as uncontradicted.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in quashing the conviction of Anthony John Allan and William John Willis, who were sentenced on February 23, 1989 at Winchester Crown Court (Judge McCree, QC) to 12 years and 11 years, respectively, for robbery.

Mr David Jefferys, QC and Mr Paul Garlick, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for Allan; Mr Henry Spooner and Mr Christopher De Havas

for Willis; Mr Owen Thomas, QC and Mr Richard Lissack for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE MCCOWAN said three men had committed the robbery in the living quarters of a public house in Hampshire. The publican, his wife and a third person were attacked and threatened. Money, jewelry and cigarettes worth more than £8,000 were stolen.

The prosecution case was that the robbery had been mounted from a flat owned by a woman called Jackie Kelly.

Allan was picked out on an identity parade by the publican's wife, but the other two witnesses picked out members of the public on the parade. The publican's wife had said recognized Allan although he was wearing a balaclava by his "evil and sadistic" eyes.

There was evidence that Allan and Willis had visited a local car

dealer carrying banknotes. There was said to have been talk of "Tom", slang for jewelry.

Allan and Willis had said nothing to the police on interview and had not given evidence.

A disturbing feature of the case was that the two appellants were committed for trial with a man called Peters who had been picked out by all three witnesses to the robbery. At the committal Miss Kelly had denied that Peters had been at her flat.

Later, a fourth man called Woodbridge was arrested and confessed to the robbery. Partly on the basis of Miss Kelly's evidence at the committal the Crown had decided to drop Peters from the case.

At the trial Miss Kelly had proved to be an unreliable witness, so much so that the judge had allowed the Crown to treat her as hostile.

The evidence of the publican's wife amounted to "a

longer observation made in difficult conditions" in the terms of Lord Widgery, Lord Chief Justice, in *R v Turnbull* (1977) 1 QB 224, 230A.

The parade had been held seven weeks after the robbery. The judge had given an appropriate warning about the need to treat the identification evidence with great care.

The supporting evidence was not strong. The judge had failed to identify that evidence for the jury. He had told them the identification of Allan was uncontradicted and they might think that a matter of some importance.

Lord Widgery in *Turnbull* had said the judge was entitled to tell the jury that when assessing the quality of the identification evidence they could take into consideration the fact that it was uncontradicted by any evidence coming from the accused himself.

In Allan's case it was unfortu-

nate that the judge should have stressed that point in the way he did where the quality of the evidence was poor, the supporting evidence weak and the judge had failed to identify the other evidence capable of supporting the identification.

Allan's conviction was accordingly quashed. Willis's conviction was quashed on other grounds.

Solicitors: Mr Barry Culshaw, Poole; CFS, Hampshire.

Correction

In *Sen v Headley* (The Times December 7) in the section headed "Plaintiffs' submissions" the fifth paragraph thereafter should have read: "It was submitted that in the case of *donatio mortis causa* the trust... was either an implied or a constructive trust and therefore not affected by the requirements of writing."

Unauthorized persons not entitled to TV programmes

BBC Enterprises Ltd v Hi-Tech Xtravision Ltd and Others

Before Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, Lord Justice Staughton and Lord Justice Beldam
[Judgment December 21]

Persons who were not authorized by or on behalf of the provider of encoded satellite television programmes to receive the programmes or other transmissions were not entitled to do so within section 298 of the Copyright Design and Patents Act 1988.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by BBC Enterprises Ltd against a decision of Mr Justice Scott (The Times November 28) to strike out, as showing no cause of action, their statement of claim which had sought an injunction restraining Hi-Tech Xtravision Ltd, Transat Ltd and Network Communications Ltd from selling any apparatus designed to enable persons to receive the satellite television service BBC Television Europe.

Section 298 of the 1988 Act provides: "(1) A person who—(a) makes charges for the receipt of programmes... provided from... the United Kingdom, or (b) sends encrypted transmissions... from... the United Kingdom, is entitled to the following rights and remedies:—(2) He has the same rights and remedies against a person who—(a) makes, imports or sells or lets for hire any apparatus or device designed or adapted to enable or assist persons to receive the programmes or other transmissions when they are not entitled to do so... as a copyright owner has in respect of an infringement of copyright."

Mr Richard Aikens, QC and Mr Stephen Bate for BBC Enterprises; Mr Michael Tugendhat, QC and Mr John Baldwin for Hi-Tech.

LORD JUSTICE STAUGHTON said that BBC Television Europe was a satellite service which transmitted encrypted transmissions of BBC programmes to Western Europe. The programmes were

incomprehensible unless the receiver was equipped with a decoding device.

BBC Enterprises had entered into agreements with Space Communications (Sat-Tel) Ltd whereby the BBC used the scrambling technology of Sat-Tel in the encrypting process and authorized the use only of decoders which were designed and made by Sat-Tel.

Decoders were sold to the public only by Sat-Tel and part of the price of each decoder sold was paid by Sat-Tel to BBC Enterprises.

Hi-Tech Xtravision Ltd decided to make decoders themselves.

Apart from recent legislation the court had not been told of anything in intellectual property law to stop them doing so. They had been making the decoders in the UK and selling them in Western Europe at a price considerably lower than that charged by Sat-Tel or their distributors.

Hi-Tech professed to be willing to pass on to BBC Enterprises the appropriate sum per decoder although they did not regard themselves as legally bound to do so. BBC Enterprises protested that the viability of the whole scheme was in peril.

It was agreed that the criminal offence established by section 297(1) of the 1988 Act was of no direct relevance to the dispute because the criminal law was for the most part concerned only with conduct within the jurisdiction.

It was on section 298 that BBC Enterprises based their claim. The nub of the dispute was whether the persons who used Hi-Tech's decoders were "not entitled to do so".

A number of possible meanings had been put forward for those words. Mr Justice Scott had held that they must refer to persons who would be infringing a proprietary right of somebody else if they received programmes or transmissions.

Since there was no infringement of copyright in receiving a television broadcast and no proprietary right in the waves in the ether, there was nobody to whom the words could refer.

Mr Aikens argued that a person was not entitled to

receive programmes or transmissions unless he was authorized to do so by or on behalf of the person who provided them. A person who sought to impose charges for programmes and in order to enforce the charge encoded them, did not authorize reception without payment of the charge in the manner he prescribed.

If that was the meaning of the section the statement of claim, disclosed a cause of action against Hi-Tech.

The reasoning of Mr Justice Scott started from the proposition that everything which was not prohibited by law was permitted. As a general approach that seemed wholly acceptable.

In Mr Justice Scott's view one had to find some provision of the law outside section 298 which prohibited reception before one could say that people were not entitled to receive programmes. And there was no rule of the general law which said that they could not receive, programmes, for which the provider charged or which were encrypted, unless positively authorized to do so.

In his Lordship's judgment the solution to the problem was that section 298 itself created both the right and the remedy. A person who sought to charge for programmes or sent encrypted transmissions had the right not to have others making apparatus or devices designed to be of use to persons not authorized by him to receive his programmes.

The remedies for that right were to be the same as those of a copyright owner in respect of an infringement of copyright. It did not matter whether the right was proprietary or not; although his Lordship did not think it was, as it was not a right over property.

His Lordship therefore rejected the interpretation of section 298 adopted by Mr Justice Scott and held that the statement of claim of BBC Enterprises disclosed a good cause of action.

Lord Justice Beldam and the Vice-Chancellor delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Allison & Humphreys, Denton Hall Burgin & Warrens.

Meaning of 'molesting'

Johnson v Walton

Before Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Lord of the Rolls, Lord Justice Glidewell and Lord Justice Nicholls
[Judgment December 18]

The term "molesting", whether or not used in the context of proceedings brought under the Domestic Violence and Matrimonial Proceedings Act 1976, applied in its ordinary connotation to any conduct which intentionally caused such a degree of harassment as called for the intervention of the court.

The Court of Appeal so stated dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff, Janice Johnson, from Mr Assistant Recorder Fryer-Spelling at Stockton-on-Tees County Court, who, on the plaintiff's application to commit the defendant, Kevin Walton, for contempt of court in respect of alleged breaches of an undertaking given to the court not to molest (her) in any way nor cause or encourage any other person to do so, had made a preliminary ruling that there being no tort of molestation and therefore no final relief, the court had no jurisdiction to accept the undertaking.

Mr Robert Gilbert for the plaintiff; Mr Stuart Lightwing, who did not appear below, for the defendant.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the parties had had a sexual relationship and subsequently fallen out. After various allegations made by the plaintiff the defendant had given the undertaking not to molest her or encourage others to do so.

A few days later, articles had appeared in the national Press about their relationship, including partially nude photographs

of the plaintiff taken in the course of the relationship. The plaintiff had issued proceedings calling on the defendant to show cause why he was not in breach of the undertaking.

In making his preliminary ruling the assistant recorder had misconceived the nature of the proceedings. There was no question then before the court as to whether the undertaking had been properly accepted.

That, his Lordship emphasized, would only have arisen if the defendant had asked to be released from it, or if an injunction had been ordered, on appeal.

When an undertaking or injunction was made, it operated until revoked by the court, and was to be obeyed irrespective of whether it was rightly made.

Having made his ruling, the assistant recorder made no further decision and the plaintiff therefore appealed.

It was originally argued on the hearing of the appeal that there were problems over the meaning of the word "molestation".

However, there was authority on that. His Lordship referred to *Horne v Horne* (1982) Fam 90, 93 where Lord Justice Ormrod had said:

"For my part I have no doubt that the word 'molesting' in section 1(1)(a) of the [1976 Act] does not imply necessarily either violence or threats of violence. It applies to any conduct which can properly be regarded as such a degree of harassment as to call for the intervention of the court."

In his Lordship's view "harassment" included within it an element of intent to cause distress or harm. The word had that meaning whenever it was

used. Its ordinary connotation was that meaning, regardless of whether or not the proceedings were brought under the 1976 Act.

Mr Lightwing conceded that if the defendant had sent the photographs to the newspapers with the intention of distressing the plaintiff, that could come within the prohibition against molesting.

Certainly, in his Lordship's view, it could come within the terms of the undertaking not to encourage others (that is, the newspapers) to molest her.

If the matter had been the subject of recent complaint it would clearly have been correct to have sent it back for the defendant to be heard. But the events complained of took place in February 1989.

Since then there had been a major change in the parties' situation. The defendant had moved away from the area to Norfolk, and had no desire of contacting the plaintiff in any event the undertaking was due to expire in February 1990.

While proceedings for contempt were always in a special category, intended to uphold the court's authority and to ensure that its orders were obeyed, justice would in the present case be done, if it were made clear to the defendant that if the alleged conduct had occurred with the necessary intent he would have been in breach.

Since no useful purpose would now be served in sending the matter back, the appeal would be dismissed.

Lord Justice Glidewell and Lord Justice Nicholls agreed.

Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard, for Newbys, Stockton-on-Tees; Jacksons, Stockton-on-Tees.

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Money raises its voice above glory

SPORT
IN THE
1990s

Danny Blanchflower, one of the most intuitive captains of professional sport in my lifetime, used to say that football was not so much about winning as about glory. In the three decades since he and his Tottenham Hotspur side were giving to the game several years of sustained glory, football has become increasingly about winning and less about glory.

The same is true of almost all serious spectator sport today. Even the Oxford-Cambridge rugby union match is proving this to us. Arsenal are proving themselves the most surly of League champions. However, I suspect that what is going to happen during the coming decade is that sport will become, in turn, less about winning and more and more about money.

This likelihood has been evident among the many relevant views expressed in this series by leading figures, particularly in the comments by Nick Faldo, Steve Cram and Tony Pickard.

My fear, and it is by no means original, is that money, in conjunction with the two factors that primarily help generate it, television and sponsorship, will by the end of the century have erased from major spectator sport the little that remains of its example of integrity, honour and fair play.

The coincidental casualties from this tendency are likely to be, I suspect, firstly team games, which depend for brilliance upon subordination of natural individual selfishness to the team ethic; and secondly the pre-eminence of the western capitalist nations, as already witnessed in American golf.

When sport becomes over-endowed with money standards pervert and decline, and I think we can expect to see, as the 21st century approaches, more champions, teams and individuals emerging from such countries as Somalia, Nigeria, China (of course) and the rest of the developing world, where the hunger for success and identification will continue to be a motivation. There is every possibility, for

David Miller, Chief Sports Correspondent, takes an overall view of the coming decade to complete our series in which the great names of the 1980s have considered the prospects for their sports

instance, that with the expansion of rugby union in its World Cup, England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland may find themselves no longer even runners-up in the quality league to New Zealand.

I would like to be proved wrong, but I believe that as the levels of financial reward grow, perfection for its own sake will become increasingly attractive. A winning performance is by no means necessarily a perfect performance, and there is evidence that, in the developed world, there are fewer professionals who are as willing to devote their time to achieving perfection as are such present exceptional professionals as Faldo, Peter Shilton or Steve Davis.

Television: the eye of the manipulator

It is the threat of television, however, which is the most disturbing, by the influence with which it increasingly attempts to alter the shape of the sport. It purchases what we have seen in that past week how television will soullessly exploit the small print of a contract, with its hugely reduced fee for a postponed screening of a football match at Liverpool, but it is not so much television's greed and profit motive as its manipulation which is dangerous.

During my career television has wonderfully transformed the coverage of sport, expanding audiences ten thousandfold. Now it seeks to control. A few weeks ago, addressing the congress of the General Assembly of International Sports Federations in Budapest on a conference on the media, and being one of a non-electronic Press minority among many speakers from television, I chose to express my alarm. Many of the 70 or so sports governing bodies present voiced agreement, though I was predictably rebuked by some representatives of the magic screen.

Yet, within weeks, further justification for the alarm was scarily demonstrated. At the final Formula One motor racing grand prix in Adelaide, reluctant drivers were forced back into their cars in torrential rain by officials of the

International Automobile Federation (FIA) wholly to suit the expediency of television. And because of changes in the European winter weather pattern, we now have skiers in the World Cup being obliged to compete in what Pirmin Zurbriggen, the Olympic downhill champion, describes as highly dangerous artificial snow. Furthermore, television is attempting to press a new competition structure on to the International Ski Federation (FIS) so as better to dramatize the season's climax. Almost every other professional boxing bout is distorted by the commercial hyperbole of promoters and television acclaiming what is often a mismatch.

The argument continues, confirmed to me by one source though denied by some television executives, on whether the start of races in last year's athletics World Cup were delayed for the convenience of television; yet everyone is aware how television manipulates the timing of much of what it screens, including the Olympic Games, never mind the inconvenience to the competitors.

The governing bodies of sport, such as the IAAF, show themselves ready to compromise unacceptably to accommodate television; as with, for example, mobile cameras on track. We have cameras on racing cars: how long before we have cameras on cyclists, rowing boats, and the asymmetric bars?

The question, therefore, will arise more than ever in the Nineties of who governs sport. Almost every one of the writers in this series has touched on this: the battle of dinosaurs, between International Tennis Federation and Association of Tennis Professionals, built around the proposed mega-buck Grand Slam Cup (Tony Pickard); the un-governed state of British athletics (Cram) and football (Shilton); the court-room fending in international motor racing (Mansell); the bookmaker's self-interested demand for all-weather National Hunt racing (Elsworth); the ignorance of some traditional military-orientated racing stewards (Carson); the instability of the World Professional Billiards and



Good Bye to all that: what price glory for the Tanzanian who embodies it when he outperforms deers?

Snooker Association (Davis); the confusion in cricket (Gower) and in rugby union (Calder).

What has happened in all professional sports is that as they have become more commercial, the governing bodies have mostly been outdistanced in business acumen by the street-smart agents, dealers and television negotiators. Dan Tana, the former Brentford chairman, tried to knock sense into the FA and Football League in the Seventies when they were still lost in the commercial bog. They still are. Only the bigger sports, internationally, have been able to afford to employ agencies to act on their behalf, and too many of them are prepared to sell their souls.

The wider television and sponsorship becomes, the more these power bases will seek to control the governing bodies, even if indirectly through agencies such as Mark McCormack's International Management Group.

Faldo, admitting self-interest in his pursuit of Ivan Lendl's \$17 million in prize-money in tennis, points to the fact that IMG could tomorrow initiate a world tour, with at least five multi-national sponsors willing to invest \$20 million a year. The prize-money would be mind-bending and, as Faldo admits, it would destroy the traditions of golf, just as ATP, if pushed, are willing to destroy the tradition of the grand slam events. In answer to such a move by

IMG, the Royal and Ancient have the support of no effective world governing body — the creation of which I advocate several years ago — and would find it almost impossible to resist. Ultimately, all governing bodies are dependent on their ability to convince the commercial forces that surround them — and on whom they are dependent — that the maintenance of traditional characteristics are essential to the survival of sport in the way it has been played for the past century.

Drugs and violence: trouble looming

Governing bodies have, heaven knows, shown themselves to be ineffective enough in controlling their affairs, but were professional sport to go freelance, and become just another branch of show business — which is always a real possibility — then control over the ethics of sport will be in dire trouble. FIFA is belatedly reacting in this direction, with its obligatory demand for all-seater stadiums, a reconsideration of sending-off for the professional foul, and the introduction of professional referees by 1994 for the World Cup in the United States.

Yet too much of physical-contact sport is now liable, of necessity, to the arms of civil law. Ted Croker, the retired FA secretary, some years ago scoffed —

for the right, traditional reasons — at the law's involvement, though with an apparent lack of awareness at the way his sport, under his direction, was turning. Shilton cries out for a shift in football from power to subtlety; but this will not happen unless football's governing bodies, international and domestic, recreate an environment that protects and encourages subtlety. No coach is going to promote clever midfield players so long as they are wifflingly destroyed by such men as Gentile, of Italy: who, in the famous phrase of Stan Hey, liked to change shirts during the match.

With managers such as George Graham seemingly disinclined to restrain players' behaviour, the FA might consider licensing professional managers, with the possibility then to suspend such licences.

Regrettably, the drugs-in-sport issue will probably only be brought under control by the expansion of civil law (and education) against drug use and illicit possession. Even the rapid development internationally of random testing is unlikely fully to eliminate the unscrupulous. Here is one area in which performers could exert an influence, were those such as Cram, who want a life ban for the guilty, to refuse to compete against reinstated offenders. Yet, again money talks; Lewis, so damning of Johnson when he suspected him of being positive at

the 1987 world championships, is willing to race him for a million. There may, however, be some advantage for the anti-drugs campaign in the political changes in Eastern Europe, which has for long been a huge force in international sport and has statistically produced some of the worst offenders in positive testing. A shift away from state control may reduce the unofficial collaboration in drug-enhancement by federation officials and doctors.

I was disappointed that, in this series, there has not been uniformly the same concern with ethics and the state of the game, as exhibited by David Gower. Perhaps as you would expect, last summer's England captain devoted most of his article to how we might play better cricket, rather than to money or publicity or winning the next Ashes series. Without this kind of sensitive perception, this devotion to the inherent quality of the game, there can be no glory.

Winning a one-day bonanza with a cross bat dressed in pyjamas can never compare with Botham's 1981 feat at Headingley or those of a hundred legendary heroes of the past. Lewis racing Johnson for a million is irrelevant 24 hours later compared with the defeat of Owen, Zastepok or Viren. My idea of glory is personified by Filbert Bayi, of Tanzania. Having memorably set a world record by running from the front throughout to defeat John Walker in the 1974 Commonwealth Games 1,500 metres, Bayi's ambition was to win a first Olympic medal for his country. He was denied the chance by the boycott of Montreal, and by the time it came to Moscow he knew that Ovet and Coe might deny him, so he switched to the steeplechase, not having the first idea how to clear the hurdles.

In an unforgettable final he led Malinowski, of Poland, by half a lap, only to be overhauled agonizingly during the final stages of the race. It was one of the finest examples of private ambition narrowly unfulfilled, with the loser defeated by another great athlete who was subsequently killed in a car accident. Without the same such as Bayi, there can be no McCormack.

Sadly, although spectators nowadays know a little about many sports, through the coverage of television, they tend to have little specialist knowledge, and are unaware of the quality of what they are watching. A result of this is the promotion of "personality" figures such as Eddie Edwards and Frank Bruno which bears no relation to performance.

GOLF

A movable feast to follow festivities

From John Ballantine, La Costa, California

Professional competition restarts in sunny California on Thursday in the first event of the 1990 season, the Tournament of Champions at the La Costa Country Club, a few miles up the coast from San Diego. Endless blue skies, still air, a temperature rising to 70 by midday and whales spouting a mile out in the Pacific, happily on their way to their winter breeding grounds off Acapulco, give the flavour to mud-battered British golfers yesterday, the 56 winners last season halted their practice rounds to admire a school of dolphins passing no more than 50 yards out.

Festivity and festivities behind them, the champions have congregated: Nick Faldo, the Masters winner, flying in from wintry Wentworth; Greg Norman and Mark Calcavecchia from their Florida homes near Orlando; and the 1989 Open champion, Nick Faldo, in Palm Beach; Tom Kite from Austin, Texas; the United States Open champion, Curtis Strange, from Richmond, Virginia; and Bob Charles, the 1963 Open champion and the leading senior money-winner for a second

year, all the way from Christchurch, New Zealand. What will they chew over in their locker-rooms? Commissioner Deane Beman's counter-offensive, over the square grooves issue, which many see as a question of who really rules golf, the manufacturers or the ruling bodies? The decision by Faldo and Bernhard Langer to give up their US cards over being forced to play in at least 15 events? Above all, perhaps, the impact upon native pride and status of the third successive repulsing of the once all-conquering Americans by Europe in the Ryder Cup?

There is certain to be lively discussion over the move into the seniors of Nicklaus and Lee Trevino. Where, it may be asked, lies the comparable charisma among the regulars to the above, as well as Gary Player, Arnold Palmer and Chi Chi Rodriguez?

To expect Faldo to come straight out from pulling Christmas crackers and win is asking too much even of the consistent Englishman. His "deflection" seriously dilutes the international flavour of this circuit.

Courts stall US Tour's ban on square grooves

Karsten Solheim has won the two opening skirmishes of his battle to allow his controversial square-grooved clubs to be used on the US PGA Tour.

Recently, in an Arizona district court, Judge Paul G. Rosenblatt granted the manufacturer a preliminary injunction preventing the tour from banning his clubs in the Tournament of Champions, which starts at La Costa, California, on Thursday, and in subsequent tournaments. Deane Beman, the tour commissioner, made an emergency request in a San Francisco appeals court last Thursday to block the injunction. This was refused.

Solheim's lawsuit against the tour and any response from the professional body seems now to be "frozen" until the case comes to full federal court. This could

take up to two years. It will be interesting to see if the 1989 winners this week, nearly all of whom support the ban, continue to use the square grooves on the logical grounds that they do not want rivals to have an advantage. Nick Faldo, the US Masters champion, carries a pitching wedge with the square groove.

The tour alleged that the extra spin they impart "changes the character and nature of the game" and lessens the skill required. A spokesman said that Solheim's case was based on his desire "not to let down the thousands who bought his legally proper clubs in good faith."

"Naturally, we're very happy the way the courts have decided so far," the spokesman said yesterday.

Although there may be a mini-invasion by Europeans, as Severiano Ballesteros, Howard Clark and Ian Woosnam in late February when the tour moves to Florida for the build-up to the spring classics. Before that, Sandy Lyle will hope to regain his marvellous touch of early last year when he finished runner-up twice and third once in the first seven tournaments. His countryman, Ken Brown, after six reasonably successful seasons, is an immigrant Yankee at the court of King Beman, has wisely called it a day.

"The European tour is so long and financially worthwhile now, says that only a superstar can hope to excel in both hemispheres," Brown says. Meanwhile, the US Tour will continue to roll on in its inexorable way, with more money, more spectators and more coverage. The "T of C" is followed by a welcome return to the high plains country of Tucson at the Starness course with its plateau greens, where saguaro and ocotillo cacti abound and nothing can be heard, to paraphrase Woodhouse, than the howls of coyotes and the cries of wounded caddies.

Then it is back to Palm Springs for the five-day Bob Hope Chrysler Classic played on Indian Wells, Bermuda Dunes, Tamarisk and Palmer's PGA West.

This is a veritable caravan-serial of a tournament, each professional taking out three different amateurs each day on four different courses, and returning to the host club for a fifth and final round.

Then back to the Grand Canyon state for the Phoenix Open at the huge, new players' complex out in the desert beyond Scottsdale. Last year 80,000 spectators were reputed to have been present on the last day, turning this vast expanse of scrub and desert into, as one local scribe quaintly explained, "the third largest city in Arizona" — albeit one that became a ghost town.

Up to Pebble Beach to the rolling Steinbeck country for the AT and T pro-am, nostalgically still called "The Crosby"

ference within six years." Fairholme's appointment is a substantial vote of confidence in his abilities. At the time of his dismissal the ETTA also parted company with Peter Simpson, the former national training coach and successful England captain, and their combined departures caused several notable figures in the coaching world to protest.

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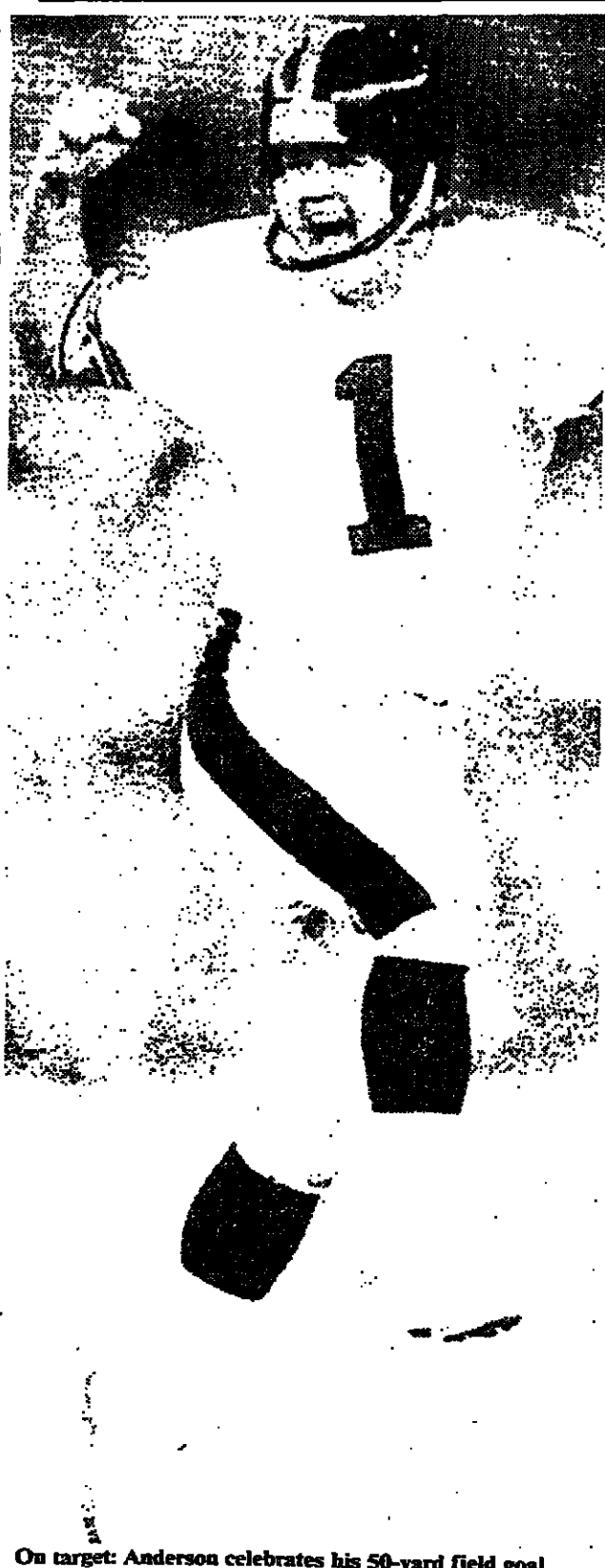
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AMERICAN FOOTBALL: GOOD TIME OF YEAR FOR VISITING



On target: Anderson celebrates his 50-yard field goal

Pittsburgh continue to improve

By Robert Kirley

The Pittsburgh Steelers and the Los Angeles Rams both won awards in the National Football League wild-card games on Sunday to advance in the play-off for Super Bowl XXIV. In the American Football Conference, the Steelers beat the Houston Oilers 26-23 on Gary Anderson's 50-yard field goal in overtime. In the National Football Conference, the Rams rode their defence and splendid pass protection to a 21-7 victory over the Philadelphia Eagles.

On Saturday, the divisional play-offs, the Buffalo Bills will face the Cleveland Browns, and the Minnesota Vikings will travel to the San Francisco 49ers. On Sunday, the Rams will play away to the New York Giants, and Pittsburgh will face the Denver Broncos.

Anderson kicked his longest field goal of the season, 34½ minutes into overtime in the Steelers' first play-off game since 1984. The winning kick came five plays after Rod Woodson recovered a Lorenzo White fumble at the Houston 46. A one-yard scoring run by Merrill Hoge of Pittsburgh, in the final minute of regulation forced the overtime.

The Steelers, who lost their first two games of the season by an aggregate 92-10, have won four consecutive games and six of their last seven. Their most recent defeat was to the Oilers, who had beaten them twice in the season. The Oilers ended with three successive defeats, and the coach, Jerry Glavinski, must be fearing for his job.

In the Rams' win, Jim Everett, who finished with 18 of 33 passes for 225 yards, hit Henry Ellard for a 39-yard score and connected with Dan Moore Johnson for a four-yard touchdown to give Los Angeles a 14-0 lead on their first two series. Greg Bell, who gained 124 yards, added a seven-yard scoring dash in the fourth quarter. Philadelphia, which lost its third consecutive play-off game, scored on a one-yard burst by Anthony Toney. Philadelphia, second in the league in sacks, managed to damp Everett only twice.

RESULTS: Wild-card games: AFC: Pittsburgh 28, Houston 20 (OT); NFC: San Diego 24, Dallas 17. Divisional play-offs: AFC: Buffalo at Cleveland; NFC: Minnesota at San Francisco. Sunday: WFLA 1989 Super Bowl XXIV: Pittsburgh at Denver. Conference championships: January 14, Super Bowl XXIV: January 15, New Orleans.

BASKETBALL

Busy Byrd sparks Kingston victory

By Nicholas Harling

For a squad expecting to be spending the festive season preparing for a victory in the Carlsberg League, Kingston surprised themselves by winning the invitation club championship for the first time. It was not until nine days before the start of the thirteenth tournament at Crystal Palace that Kingston knew for certain that they would be taking the place of the Soviet champions, Spartak Kiev, whose demand for appearance money was considered excessive.

Now, for as long as the event survives in what is a turbulent time for basketball, the club's name will be indelibly inscribed as champions after a 92-79 success over Bayer Leverkusen.

A game that was in danger of being remembered only for the extent of the winning margin was turned into a memorable occasion by the force of Leverkusen's second-half rally. "We knew they would come back at us. They had their pride to play for," Kevin Cadie, the Kingston coach, said after seeing the West German league leaders transform a 35-point deficit at half-time into a lead of only nine with two minutes left.

But Kingston had enough reserves left to win by 13 points, the fourth largest winning margin in a WICB final at the National Sports Centre.

So majestic was Kingston's game in the first half that Alton Byrd considered that few clubs on the Continent could have lived with them. With Joel Moore resting a torn knee ligament, Byrd was allowed less than a minute's rest from his

play-making role. He still continued to control the tempo of the game besides sinking 15 crucial points.

When Byrd missed from the free throw line 69 seconds before the interval, it was only time that Kingston failed with a foul shot. The accuracy of their shooting from any distance in the first half was unerring. The outstanding marksmen were Clark (25 points), Cunningham (22), who supported by Blunt (14) and Byrd.

Scantlebury (11), too, made a telling contribution in the dispute of the bounce. He gave the type of performance which should serve England in good stead. "We had to come up with the defensive plays, the rebounds and the tip-ins," Cadie said. "We did what we had to do. We had to maintain that intensity of the first half."

That, as it proved, was impossible. Kingston scored only 31 points in the second half and were in danger of succumbing to the exceptional long-range shooting of Korner, who had destroyed them over two legs in a European Cup Winners Cup tie two years previously.

With only Griffiths coming off the bench — in contrast to the Germans, who used their entire squad — Kingston were clearly running low on stamina when it really mattered.

Ultimately Kingston got it right on the night to embellish the 1980s with their most significant triumph yet. Their rivals for the mantle of Britain's top club over the decade MIM Livingston had beaten Leverkusen in the final a year ago.

Byrne hopes Johnson is ready to fit the bill

By Nicholas Harling

Mick Byrne, the coach of Solent Stars, is hoping that Garry Johnson, the deposed player-coach of Leicester City Riders, will join them and help restore his present opinion of American players.

The parting comments of Phil Smith, the Solent play-maker so incensed Byrne that he could not resist an angry retort. Fitness problems prevented Smith, the American guard from playing more than three or seven games when he returned to the club this season. Smith left, claiming that he had been badly treated.

"I don't think he was badly treated. He was not fulfilling his contract," Byrne said. "I thought it came as a relief to him when we parted company. No one likes to say goodbye to an American but I do feel that the Americans we have over in Britain just now aren't doing the game any favours. Clubs have to pay a lot of money now to get good Americans. Only the likes of Kingston and Bracknell can get good Americans and afford to keep them."

Byrne is banking on Johnson

proving an exception, assuming that he joins Solent before Kingston make him an offer should Joel Moore's torn knee ligament prove worse than was first feared. "The difference between Solent and Kingston is like night and day," Johnson admitted, but I've spoken to Solent already and they say they can afford me."

Like Smith, Johnson feels aggrieved at the manner of his departure from Leicester, who had won only one of nine Carlsberg League games under him and have since appointed his assistant, Peter Minoff, as coach. "They said I wasn't doing enough development work," Johnson said, "but I can't ever remember anyone getting fired over that before. That was a cheap change and that's what they've done."

Leicester have also obtained another American as Johnson's replacement — Perry Bellair, a 6ft 4in guard who has appeared for San Jose Shamblers in Continental Basketball Association.

TABLE TENNIS: ENGLAND'S FORMER DIRECTOR OF COACHING GOES NORTH

By Richard Eaton

David Fairholm, the director of coaching who parted company from the English Table Tennis Association (ETTA) two years ago after an acrimonious relationship with John Pearn, the Association's chairman, has been given the same job in Scotland.

The ETTA claimed its action

was part of an enforced cost-cutting exercise, but Fairholm sought compensation for unpaid dismissal at an industrial tribunal. Instead, he was given £4,000 by an insurance company as an estimate of what he might have been awarded, after his barrister brought the claim forward a day too late.

Now Fairholm has been given

the leading coaching job north of the border. "As far as I am concerned the bitterness is over," Fairholm, who had also been upset at not being allowed to take any official ETTA work since his dismissal, said. "I am looking forward to it. Scotland were 42nd and England 41st at the last world championships, and I hope to split that difference within six years."

Fairholm's appointment is a substantial vote of confidence in his abilities. At the time of his dismissal the ETTA also parted company with Peter Simpson, the former national training coach and successful England captain, and their combined departures caused several notable figures in the coaching world to protest.

CRICKET

Storey's swift finish

Sydney (Reuters) — Rob Kerr struck a century and Steve Storey hit a rapid 50 to propel Queensland to a five-wicket win over New South Wales in Brisbane yesterday, which stretched their lead in the Sheffield Shield. Storey won the match with his fifth six, over midwicket off Matthews, to bring his state victory with four overs to spare.

Queensland, who trailed by 102 runs on first 10 overs, were set a target of 304 to win, after Lawson had declared the New South Wales second innings at 201 for eight.

Kerr set Queensland on the path to victory with 123, sharing a 166-run stand with Cantrell, who hit 81, and Storey finished the job with some fierce hitting in his 53 not out.

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Clough penalizes Liverpool Villa helped on their way to title challenge

By Dennis Shaw

Nottingham Forest 2
Liverpool 0

Liverpool's lead in what promises to be the most compulsive of championship chases was restricted to a slender margin by an enthralling Nottingham Forest comeback at the City Ground yesterday. The first day of the Nineties saw them just two points clear of Aston Villa — who have a match in hand — though at half-time it was heading for double that figure.

Two goals by Ian Rush in the opening 40 minutes looked enough to slam the door in the face of Brian Clough's eager beavers. But the plot for ITV's live New Year's Day offering was a both perverse and entertaining one.

In 10 early minutes of the second half Clough saw his 1,001st League game as a manager provide the rare sight of Liverpool surrendering what had seemed a winning lead.

A flick of the head by Hodge, as Crosby chipped in superbly from the left, suddenly undermined that apparent invincibility.

Untypically Liverpool had lost their composure and the effects of it emerged as Jenson was upended in a flurry of tackles, Burrows making contact a pace or so inside the area. In such situations Clough junior is the coolest of customers and he smashed the ball high above Grobbelaar's head.

The Liverpool goalkeeper was carrying an injury sustained, between the Rush goals, when Clough went round him to strike a cross shot against the upright.

"We have taken eight points from the last 12 and gone seven games without defeat. I'm not complaining," said Kenny Dalglish, the Liverpool manager. "We played better than in recent victories at home."

Those armchair critics who complain at Liverpool's overdose of TV exposure can hardly deny that their games invariably provide good value. This one was hugely competitive, full of inventive attacking football and its scoreline was wide open to change right to the final moments.



Rushing in: the Liverpool forward beats off a challenge from Laws, of Nottingham Forest, to score his side's first goal at the City Ground yesterday

Dalglish, not happy at losing the lead, did not dispute either the penalty award or Forest's right to their point.

Clough was presented with a silver salver and bottle of champagne before the kick-off to mark his 1,000 League games. A feature of them has been the introduction of young talent and here he had two such newcomers in Jenson and Orlysson, the Icelandic international.

Forest's second half tended

to overshadow Liverpool's contribution but viewers were treated to some vintage football.

One enduring quality Liverpool have regularly displayed has been the capacity to conjure special goals from routine situations.

This they did twice to supply Rush with his thirteenth and fourteenth goals of the season, and his seventh in eight games. The thirteenth minute opener was cleared up

field from two Forest corners to Beardsley on the right and was in the net via Rush at what seemed the speed of light.

Their second, which seemed a decisive one at the time, was created by a triangle of play on the left. Beardsley to Barnes, another instant centre and shot and Forest were two down but not, it emerged, out cold.

Intelligence on the international grapevine, un-

confirmed but believable, says that Liverpool will be allowed back into Europe with the other English clubs if the ban is lifted for next season and that their additional three-year penalty would not be enforced.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST: S. Sutton; B. Lowe, S. Pearce, D. Walker, S. Chettle, S. Hodge, G. Crosby, G. Parker, N. Clough, N. Harrison, I. Orlysson.
LIVERPOOL: B. Grobbelaar; G. Hysen, B. Wilson, S. Nicol, R. Whelan, A. Hansen, P. Beardsley, D. Burrows, I. Rush, J. Barnes, S. McAllister.
Referee: A. Bullock.

● Brian Clough, Nottingham Forest manager, confirmed last night that he has opened negotiations for the transfer of Gary McAllister, the Leicester City midfielder player (Dennis Shaw writes).

Clough is believed to be ready to pay in excess of £1 million for McAllister, whom he has sought since last season. He has spoken to David Platt, the Leicester manager, and their talks are likely to continue this week.

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

Chelsea 0
Aston Villa 3

Graham Taylor imagined that the championship credentials of Aston Villa would conveniently be measured at Stamford Bridge yesterday. The scoreline might suggest that they are indeed genuine candidates but, although their victory was eventually convincing, the vision was in reality as substantial as a mirage.

In spite of scoring three goals (one fortunate, one spectacular and one simple), Villa were flattered by the outcome. Chelsea, as well as failing to repair the damaging holes in their defence, were even more woefully inefficient in attack. They could, without exaggeration, have beaten Spink on at least half a dozen occasions.

Chelsea cannot be used as a reliable guide to Villa's potential, but there is no disputing their present form. They have won 11 of their last 14 fixtures: a sequence which has lifted them to second place, behind Liverpool. Yet Taylor recognizes that their challenge will depend on their results outside Villa Park.

Two months ago, Chelsea would doubtless have provided a sterner test. Their defensive record then was the best in the country, but their once almost impenetrable fortress is now so feeble that it looks as though it would fall down in the face of a gentle breeze.

Bessant, beaten only a dozen times in the opening 15 League games, has conceded 19 in the last six. His protective shield has collapsed principally because Roberts, employed as the coach, the captain, and the sweeper, is not quick enough to cover for his marking colleagues, Lee and Monkou.

As Liverpool illustrated so graphically a fortnight ago, any ball lobbed into the gap between the three central defenders and the goalkeeper represents a scoring opportunity. Villa, using a similar system, are vulnerable to the same tactic, as was evident throughout a first half which opened ominously for Chelsea.

Dixon, the pivot around which almost all of their

creative ideas revolved, released Clive Wilson into open territory.

He was guilty of missing a chance which seemed at the time to be notable. By the end of the chillingly cold afternoon, he was merely one name on an elongated list of culprits.

He was joined by Dixon twice, Kevin Wilson twice, Monkou and, most blatantly of all, by McAllister. A drive by Bumstead shook a post and Spink distinguished himself especially in carrying a thunderous freekick from Roberts.

First division leaders

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | P |
|-------------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|----|
| Liverpool | 22 | 12 | 6 | 4 | 44 | 23 | 42 |
| Aston Villa | 21 | 12 | 6 | 3 | 36 | 20 | 40 |
| Coventry | 21 | 11 | 6 | 4 | 37 | 23 | 38 |
| Southampton | 21 | 10 | 7 | 4 | 32 | 24 | 34 |
| Nottingham Forest | 21 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 29 | 26 | 31 |
| Chelsea | 21 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 33 | 31 | 31 |

All of the activity in and around Villa's goalmouth took place before the interval. Villa by then were ahead.

The build-up was attractive, as Olney used Daley as a decoy to free Gage on the edge of the area, but the finish was enveloped in luck. The full back's shot careered off the body of Roberts and Bessant was deceived by the change in the flight path. He was beaten again at the dawn of the second half by a shot of stunning power and accuracy. Mountfield rolled a pass along a touchline. Bumstead failed to block its path and Olney put Daley through. He won the race with Dorigo and the contest with Bessant.

Chelsea, whose organization at the back is not convincing anyway, fell into increasing disarray. A shot by Olney was deflected onto the outside of an upright and Ormondroyd missed the clear-cut opportunity of the game, which in itself was some feat, before an unguarded Platt headed in a corner from Cowans.

Platt, who raised his total to 17 goals so far, was the most prominent individual in a display which prompted Taylor to claim that: "We are good enough to be there or thereabouts at the end of the season."

CHELSEA: D. Bessant; S. Clarke, A. Dorigo, G. Roberts, D. Lee, K. Monkou, McAllister, J. Bumstead, K. Dixon, K. Wilson, G. Wilson.
ASTON VILLA: N. Spink, K. Gage, G. Williams, P. McGee, D. Mountfield, J. Nelson, A. Daley, D. Platt, I. Olney, G. Cowan, J. Ormondroyd.
Referee: D. Aspin.

Bull with hunger of four wolves

By Louise Taylor

Newcastle United 1
Wolverhampton W 4

Steve Bull launched his new year campaign for inclusion in England's World Cup squad by scoring all four goals for Wolverhampton Wanderers at St James' Park yesterday. His second-half fury must have more than justified the £75 a head invested by the 900 Wolves supporters transported to Tyneside by seven chartered aircraft.

After being frustrated by the Newcastle offside trap and let down by an inconsistent first touch in a muted first half, the England centre forward did not rediscover his raging bullishness until the fiftieth minute.

Capitalizing on the space donated by Kristensen's concession of possession, Cook crossed from the right to Bull, who scored from close range.

Seven minutes later he turned a celebratory somersault in front of the Leazes end after rounding Burridge in the Newcastle goal to claim his second after Dennison's delightful dummy, which caught the defence flat-footed.

Another two minutes and the man who five years ago was leading the Tipton Town attack in his native Black

Country scored a third. Dennison took a corner on the right, Streeter flicked on, and Bull's head did the rest at the far post.

So incensed was one home supporter by his side's capitulation that he dashed to the Newcastle dugout and aimed a punch at Jim Smith, the manager.

Although Brock salvaged some north-eastern pride with a consolation goal from a 20-yard free kick in the 73rd minute, it proved a brief respite. The match was a mere 180 seconds older when Bull signed off in swashbuckling style.

His sixteenth goal of the season was a superlative solo effort which saw him sidestep three defenders on his passage into the area before walloping the ball past Burridge.

The award of a seventh-minute penalty to Newcastle after Streeter's clumsy challenge on McShee proved a false alarm for Wolves. Quinn, the League's leading scorer with 21 goals, failing to increase his tally.

NEWCASTLE UNITED: J. Burridge; J. Anderson, M. Morrison, D. Kristensen, K. Scott, B. Kristensen, W. Forsyth, A. Brock, M. Quinn, M. McShee, L. O'Brien.
WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS: M. Jordan; T. Dennis, M. Varnas, G. Bellamy, K. Downing (sub: P. Jones), P. Smeaton, P. Cook, S. Bull, A. March, R. Darnley (sub: P. McLaughlin).
Referee: K. Lupton.

Police called in at Bristol City

Police were called to investigate an alleged incident in the players' tunnel at Bristol City yesterday in which Warren Joyce, of Preston North End, was left with a facial wound requiring stitches as the teams left the pitch at half-time in the third division match at Ashton Gate.

Police confirmed that a City player had been involved but, after consultation with both clubs, they decided to take no action. Joe Jordan, the Bristol City manager, said: "There was a minor skirmish. As far as Preston and the police are

concerned the matter is closed. I shall be seeking all sides of the story before deciding whether any action is necessary."

● Heart of Midlothian won the Edinburgh derby against Hibernian 2-0 yesterday at Tynecastle to move into third place in the Scottish League premier division, four points behind Rangers, the leaders. John Robertson scored both goals, the first a penalty after 37 minutes and the second an opportunist effort three minutes after half-time.

Palace belittled by Arsenal

By Clive White

Arsenal 4
Crystal Palace 1

Like the rest of us, no doubt Crystal Palace's defence had resolved to do better in the new year. But old habits die hard and before the first half was over yesterday at Highbury, they had made another generous contribution to their own inevitable defeat.

Four goals to one down with 45 minutes to go the chilling sense of déjà vu must then have enveloped those Palace players unlucky enough to be associated with the 9-0 defeat against Liverpool in September.

Few would have bet against a repeat either so abysmally naive were Palace's attempts to defend their goal. But

Arsenal forced to reorganize at the interval after Smith suffered a knee injury lost either their momentum or their appetite.

Arsenal were happy enough to do things by halves on this occasion, coming as it did after defeats away to Southampton and Aston Villa over the holiday period.

George Graham, the Arsenal manager, chose to reflect more upon his team's performance in the first half than the second, which was as inconsequential as one could imagine.

"We played some great football in the first half and it was good to see a lot of players going forward and being positive. It was a shame it fizzled out."

Arsenal act on Villa fracas

By Clive White

Arsenal announced yesterday that they would fine those players who were involved in unruly scenes at the end of the match against Aston Villa at Villa Park on Saturday.

The reputation of the League champions has been sullied in recent weeks with a fine of £20,000 for their involvement in a fracas with players of Norwich City at Highbury on November 4, and clearly they are determined to be seen to be putting their house in order.

George Graham, the Arsenal manager, who had attempted to play down the incident at the end of Saturday's game, announced after

the match against Crystal Palace at Highbury yesterday: "Disciplinary action will be taken over the fracas at Villa Park."

The incident occurred when half a dozen Arsenal players surrounded Martin Fyfe, a linesman, and remonstrated with him for not disrupting Villa's decisive second goal by Derek Mountfield, which they believed to be offside. Theo Foley, the Arsenal trainer, and Gary Lewin, the physiotherapist, were seen pulling away players who were blocking the path of the linesman to the dressing-room.

Four clubs this season — Norwich, Wimbledon and

West Ham United were the others — have been charged by the FA for bringing the game into disrepute in an attempt to crack down on indiscipline on the field.

The FA announced on Sunday that they would await the report of Jim Ashworth, the referee, before deciding on any action over the Villa Park incident.

The internal discipline which Arsenal propose to take against their players — probably a fine of one week's wages — will do the club's cause no harm should the FA decide to press charges.

More football, page 29

Desert Orchid gets a cough for his birthday

By Michael Seely

Desert Orchid has fallen victim to an outbreak of coughing at David Elsworth's Hampshire stable. The nation's most popular racehorse, triple winner of Kempton's King George VI Rank Chase, coughed for the first time on his eleventh birthday yesterday.

The chances of him winning a second consecutive Cheltenham Gold Cup on March 15 have not yet been jeopardized, but the trainer expects Desert Orchid to be out of action for at least three weeks.

"He definitely won't make the Victor Chandler Chase at Ascot on Saturday week," Elsworth said at Cheltenham yesterday. "And his chances of

making the Agfa Diamond Gainsborough Chase at Sandown on February 1 will depend on how he gets on."

Discussing the cough, the trainer said: "More and more horses are getting it. My forecast is based on the virus being the same as we had with the Flat horses in the summer. On that occasion we had seven winners the week before the York Ebor meeting, but most of them were sick the following Monday."

Desert Orchid's price for the Gold Cup remains unchanged at 4-1. "It's much too early to press any panic buttons yet," Wally Pyrah, of Corns, said.

Racing, pages 26-27

Hardstaff dies

Joe Hardstaff, the Nottinghamshire batsman who played 23 Tests for England before and after the Second World War, died in hospital in Worksop yesterday. He was 78.

Hardstaff first played for England in 1935 but produced his best Test form after the war, notably in the first Test in peacetime when he hit 205 not out against India at Lord's in 1946. He toured Australia three times. In a first-class career from 1930 to 1955 he totalled 31,847 runs at an average of 44.35, including 83 centuries.

Hardstaff's father also played for Nottinghamshire and England, while his son has appeared in first-class cricket.

SPORT IN BRIEF



Weissfog: leaping ahead

Cup victory

Garmisch-Partenkirchen (AP) — Jens Weissfog, of East Germany, won the second World Cup four-hill ski jumping event of the season yesterday with leaps of 101 metres and 103.5m to score 220.5 points. Risto Laakkonen, of Finland, was second, the Frantisek Jez, of Czechoslovakia, third.

Charles Burton

Charles Burton, who became an institution in Fleet Street sports journalism before and after the World War II, died in London on New Year's Eve after a long illness. He was in his late 80s.

Game off

Tranmere's third division game against Bolton last night was called off just over an hour before kick off by the referee, Alan Bennett of Chesterfield, because of a waterlogged pitch.

Sale price

Oldham Rugby League club have reduced the asking price on their former Great Britain forward, Terry Flanagan, from £60,000 to £25,000.

Wales without Davies for France match

Phil Davies, the Llanelli captain and international forward, has been ruled out of the Wales match against France on January 20.

Davies tore a calf muscle in his left leg during his club's 28-17 victory over Swansea at Stradey Park yesterday. He is likely to be out of the game for almost a month. Davies will also miss his club's important match against Neath on Saturday week and could be absent from the Schweppes Welsh Cup fifth-round tie at Cardiff on January 27.

Llanelli are also likely to be without Phil May, their other first-choice lock forward, for the cup tie. May was sent off against London Welsh over Christmas.

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